DEKALB
ALTONA
SCHOOL
DAYS
1877-1929
B11

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ALTONA SCHOOL DAYS 1877 — 1929

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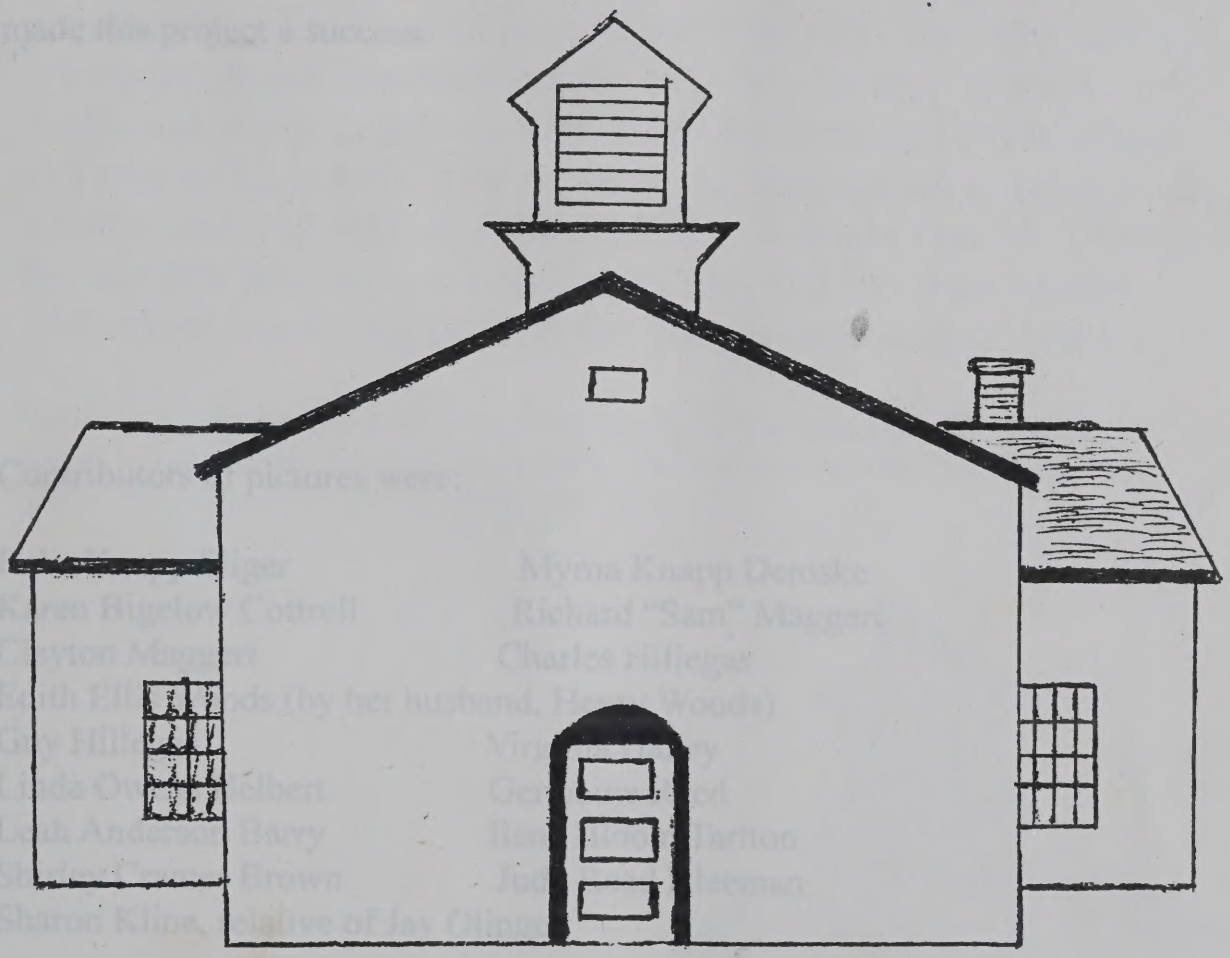
ALTONA SCHOOL DAYS 1877 — 1929



July 26, 1987

The compilation of this book about Altona was accomplished by the cooperation of Reba Knapp Sliger and Guy Hillegas. Earlier research by Guy and the technology of enlarging, enhancing and printing on the pictures made this project a success.

Contributors of pictures were:

Reba Knapp Sliger
Myrna Knapp Demske
Karen Bigelow Cottrell
Richard "Sam" Maggert
Clayton Maggert
Charles Hillegas
Edith Ellis Woods (by her husband, Henry Woods)
Guy Hillegas
Virginia Haney
Linda Owens Helbert
Germaine Reed
Leah Anderson Barry
Ilene Bloom Tarlton
Shirley Cramer Brown
Judy Reed Kleeman
Sharon Kline, relative of Jay Olinger

Additional pictures and contributions are being sought. They will be added to this edition when available.

Submitted October, 2007

ALTONA SCHOOL
KEYSER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL #7

Located on County Road 48 at Altona. One acre of land was acquired from mr. Downend on January 25, 1877 for $150, and a one room school was built thereon by J. W. Garvey. In 1901, Wells and Allman made an addition to the north end of the school at a cost of $2,243.00. The building was constructed of brick, with a belfry and well, and all eight grades were taught therein. During the last few years of use, only grades four and five were taught. The school was closed in 1956 and later made into apartments.

Footnote by Reba Knapp Sliger: The room on the west was always called the "little room" because grades 1-4 were taught there. The east room was the "big room" for grades 5-8. The addition on the ~~north~~ South was a gym.

On January 25, 1877, Altona School Trustees purchased one acre from Mr. Downend for the sum of $150. On this site, a one-room school was to be erected by J.W. Garvey, the same man who built the B & O car shop. This building was supposedly to replace a wooden building just east of the present site, although little is known of the original school.

In 1901, a Garrett contractor L.C. Wells and Mr. Allman, a bricklayer, built an addition to the north end of the school, along with the belfry and well at the cost of $2,243.

Although it began as a one-room school housing all eight grades, the school eventually had only four grades in each room and in its last years, only grades five and six were taught there.

In 1956, the school was closed following the consolidation of Garrett-Keyser-Butler School Corp.

The school house is still standing just west of the junction of county roads 7 and 48. It has been converted to apartments.

In researching some former students, the following list of names were found to be eigth grade graduates. These students were invited to the county courthouse where a large graduation picture was taken of all the county graduates.

1885 is the first recorded graduate with Edwin Rogers graduating on May 27. The school is listed at Keyser 7 with the teacher being T.J. Sanders, A.G. Jones as trustee and C.M. Merica as superintendent.

1889 was the next date listed with Rolla Kooken being the only graduate on June 14. Again listed as Keyser 7, Blance Peterson was the teacher, Fred Schulthus, trustee and C.M. Merica as superintendent.

June 13, 1905 was the next graduation with Don L. Kooken age 13, listed in Keyser 7 with teacher G. G. Smith, trustee Groscup and H. E. Coe as superintendent.

June 22, 1907 listed was is believed to be Blanche Feagler (writing was hard to decipher) at age 14 graduating from Keyser 7 with H. W. Mowery as teacher, Fred Groscup as trustee and H. E. Coe as superintendent.

Walter Darling was a 14 year old graduate on June 8, 1909 with the school at that time designated as Altona. The teacher was Angie Wright, John Maggert was trustee and H. E. Coe superintendent.

June 14, 1911 listed students Ray Widner, 14 years, Lola Stella Coons, 15 years, and Stella Hartman as 16. The teacher was B. L. Bailey, trustee S. H. Downend and Lido Leasure as superintendent.

Ailene Brown, 16, Roy Rodebaugh, 18, and Avis Wootero, 15, graduated on June 17, 1913. The teacher was Robert Ulm.

1914 graduates were Harvey Rogers, 14, James V. Runion, 16, and Marbel Harvey, 14. The teacher was Robert Ulm with a school board at that time. Lido Leasure was superintendent.

June 23, 1915, listed Paul Myers, 12, Harold Badebaugh (?) 16, Hazel Button, 14, Edna Tyler, 13, and Argyle Runion, 15. The teacher was John Nugen.

Mary Baker, 14, Harry Harwood, 15, Ray Hite, 15, Oliver Tyler, 16, and Frank Adams, 15, graduated June 28, 1916. The teacher was John Nugen, S. E. Shutt trustee.

Clifford Miller, Ethel Button, Aleda Hathaway, Elva Quinn and Thelma Leeson were listed on June 20, 1917. John Nugen was teacher and Lido Leasure superintendent.

Hugh Carper as teacher and F. M. Merica superintendant in 1918 when Edna Francis, 14, Edna Lenore Houser, 14, and Frank Leeson, 13, and Dorothy Pearl Watier, 15 were graduates.

Marie Miller was the teacher for the gradutés on June 2, 1920 when F. D. Alman, 15, F. B. Maggert, 15, Donald Alman, 13, and Harry Monn were listed.

Sixteen year old Ray Francis was a graduate on June 15, 1922 with John Nugen as teacher, Scudder E. Shutt trustee and Clarence Green superintendent.

June 14, 1923 shows John Nugen as teacher and Clarence Green superintendent. The graduates were Gertrude Feagler, 14, Clayton William Wattier, 14, Edith Wilmot, 14, and Sam Leeson, 15.

Louis Kuckuck was teacher, T. J. Noel trustee, and Clarence Green superintendent on June 10, 1924 when graduates were Everett J. Cramer, 15, Donna Marker, 13, Irene G. Myers, 15, Glenn Arlo Quinn, 15, Agnes Roberts, 14, and Howard Milburn Watts, 11.

Arthur Bixler and Charles E. Feagler, both 13, and Anthony DeParis, 16, graduated June 11, 1925 when officials were the same as the prior year.

For the next four years, Jay Olinger was teacher and T. J. Noel was trustee and Clarence Green superintendent when larger classes of graduates were listed.

June 3, 1926 students were Robert Bertna (?) Brown, 14, Apolovina DeParis, 14, Valentine DeParis, 15, Mary Marie Fear, 14, Newton Francis, 15, Anna Marie Catherine Kaellner, 14, Margrete Kaellner, 15, Margaret Leeson, 15, Darl Woodrow Marker, 13.

June 9, 1927 lists 12 year old Emma Lucina Harring, 14 year Cathryn E. Bechtol, Leone Comeskey, 15 year Madonna M. Baker, Bertha Hill, Faye DePew and 16 year Paul Leslie Wilmot.

Graduates June 14, 1928 were 13 year Leah L. Watts, 14 year old Grace Leone DePew, Louise Eleanor Kaellner, Howard D. Van Harten, and 15 year old Eli Mountz.

June 6, 1929 graduates were Luella Marie Baker, Leisle Feagler, and Virginia M. Royer all 13 years old, Charles F. Champion, Anna Fear, Fred M. Leeson, and LeRoy A. Wilmot all 14 years old, and Wilford Wayne Hall at 15 years.

Records were not kept evidently from hereon as to the yearly graduates from Altona. Lists will have to be constructed from individuals of each year.

ALTONA SCHOOL in its final form had three rooms. It was located on the north side of county road 48, just west of the corner of county roads 48 and 9. In 1906 Altona was incorporated as a town and a Board of Trustees was in charge of the school until 1916, when the school was turned back to the township trustee. All eight grades were taught there most of the time the building was in use, but during the last few years only grades four and five were taught. Mrs. Georgiana Bowes and Mrs. Ruth Moss were teachers there during the final year, 1955-56. William Andrews purchased the building and made three apartments.

SOUVENIR

Altona School, Room 2

ALTONA

DeKALB COUNTY, INDIANA

1906—1907

H. W. MOWERY, Teacher

SCHOOL OFFICERS

Fred Groscop, Trustee; Fred Hall, John Maggert, Albert Hughes, School Board
H. E. Coe, County Superintendent

NAMES OF PUPILS

Blanche Feagler	Hester Beckner
Mae Depew	Blanche Dove
Truman Walker	Flossie Hughes
Laura Hughes	Ray Widner
Claire Downend	Burr Downend
Mae Masters	Cyril Studds
Mary Baker	Lloyd Irvin
Enza Draime	George Sovine
Alpha Forsyth	Madge Walburn
Walter Darling	Grace Comeskey
Ruth Wood	Nellie Kemery
Ilo Miller	Ruth Martin
Eva Royer	Ralph Metzler
Guy Martin	John Stiles
Oral Rodebaugh	Charles Runion
Amos Dick	Alva Wolf
Hester Grubb	Emerson Crago
Owen Stiles	Bessie Grubb

RM 2 WM. B. BURFORD PRIN

MAY 1, 1907.

ENUMERATION FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES.

Altona {~~Township~~, Town ~~or City~~,} DeKalb County, Indiana.

By John Maggart Town Trustee.

☞ READ CAREFULLY THE NOTES AND REMARKS BELOW BEFORE TAKING THE ENUMERATION.

Male—Indicate by using the ...1 in ...

NOTES.

NOTE 1. This report must be made to the County Superintendent ... *they legally reside.* The transfer has absolutely nothing to do with the

The attention of school officers is called to the following provision of the law which must be followed in every detail:

"On the first day of school the Trustees, Boards of Trustees, or Commissioners of school corporations, shall furnish the Truant Officer with the names of the children of compulsory age who are enumerated on the regular enumeration lists. These names shall be alphabetically arranged and shall give all the information contained in the regular enumeration returns. The County Commissioners shall provide necessary postage and such blanks as may be required by the State Board of Truancy or the State Superintendent of Public Instruction."

April 10, 1907. **ENUMERATION OF CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES.**

..... {~~Township~~, Town, ~~City~~,} ..... County, Indiana.

State of Indiana, ... **County, ss:**

I, John Maggart Do, *solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will enumerate the School Children of* Altona ~~*Township*~~, DeKalb *County, Indiana, accurately and truly, to the best of my ability.*

John Maggart *Trustee, Enumerator.*

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 6th *day of* May, 1907.

THE ABOVE OATH IS REQUIRED BY LAW.

H W Mounts
Notary Public

Commission Expires
2-5-1911

PARENTS	Children	AGE	DoB	Place/Birth			
	Mary Dick	8	JUN 1898	Mchport, PA		1	
	Martha Dick	6	SEP 1900	Mchport, PA		1	
Metzler, J.	Ralph Metzler	14	MAR 1893	Auburn		1	
Metzler, Norah	Ada Metzler	12	JUL 1895	Auburn		1	
	Velah Metzer	9	SEP 1898	Auburn		1	
	Lilla Metzler	18	FEB 1889	Auburn		1	
	Roy Metzler	16	OCT 1890	Auburn		2	
Curtis, C. L.	Lola Curtis	7	JUL 1900	Mark Center, O.		2	
	True Curtis	13	SEP 1884	Mark Center, O.		2	
	Ernest Curtis	15	JUL 1882	Mark Center, O.		2	
Walburn, Thos.	Madge Walburn	11	JUN 1895	DeKalb Co.		2	
	Welcome Walburn	6	OCT 1900	DeKalb Co.		2	
	Cecil Walburn	18	DEC 1898	DeKalb Co.		2	
Comiskey, Chas	James Comiskey	16	MAY 1891	DeKalb Co.		2	
Comiskey, Dora	Rosa Comiskey	13	JUN 1894	DeKalb Co.		2	
	Clara Comiskey	10	NOV 1896	DeKalb Co.		2	
	Samantha Comiskey	7	OCT 1899	DeKalb Co.		2	
Downing, J.	Clare Downing	17	OCT 1898	Altona		2	
Downing, Lottie	Burl Downing	14	NOV 1893	Noble Co.		2	
Stiles, John	Murtle Siltes	21	AUG 1887	DeKalb Co.		2	
	Warren Stiles	19	FEB 1885	DeKalb Co.		2	
	Carl Stiles	16	DEC 1888	DeKalb Co.		2	
	John Stiles	14	JUN 1892	DeKalb Co.		2	
	Owen Stiles	12	DEC 1894	DeKalb Co.		2	
	Ada Stiles	9	JUL 1897	DeKalb Co.		2	
	Cula Stiles	6	DEC 1900	DeKalb Co.		2	
Widner, John	Ray Widner	11	MAR 1896	Altona		2	
	Percy Widner	7	JAN 1900	Altona		2	
	Purl Widner	6	OCT 1892	Altona		2	
Beard, Willace	Sada Beard	19	NOV 1896	DeKalb Co.		2	
Watier, Joseph	Joseph Watier, Jr.	20	AUG 1887	Mossouria		2	
	Mildred Watier	10	SEP 1897	Butaler		2	
	Arthur Watier	8	AUG 1899	Altona		2	
Darling, Fred	Walter Darling	13	OCT 1893	Albion		2	
	Belvil Darling	9	MAY 1989	Garrett		2	

ALTONA, DE KALB COUNTY, INDIANA MAY 6, 1907 JOHN MAGGERT, TRUSTEE

PARENTS	CHILDREN	AGE	BIRTH DATE	PLACE OF BIRTH	DIST #	PAGE NO.	NOTES
Wood Effie	Truman Wood	9	MAR 1898	Altona		1	
	Ruth Wood	14	FEB 1893	Garrett		1	
Royer, J.	Frank Royer	12	JUL 1895	Avilla		1	
Royer, C.	Eva Royer	13	MAR 1893	Avilla		1	
	Warren Royer	20	MAY 1886	Altona		1	
	Bill Royer	16	JAN 1889	Avilla		1	
	Cora Royer	19	MAY 1885	Altona		1	
Walker, O.	Truman Walker	13	APR 1894	Benzie, Mich.		1	
Walker, W.							
Arney, W.	Palmer Arney	7	DEC 1899	Altona		1	
Arney, Lena	Pearl Arney	6	SEP 1891	Altona		1	
Depew, N.	Mary Depew	17	MAY 1889	Altona		1	
Depew, Ella						1	
Hughes, A. J.	Laura Hughs	17	DEC 1889	Blacslee, O.		1	
	Flossie Hughs	14	JAN 1893	Blarslee, O.		1	
	Oscar Hughs	11	JAN 1896	DeKalb Co.		1	
	Carrie Hughs	9	JAN 1898	DeKalb Co.		1	
	Emma Hughs	6	APR 1891	Altona		1	
	Minnie Hughs	18	JUN 1889	Blakesly, O		1	
Zimmerman, D.	Nora Zimmerman	6	DEC 1900	Altona		1	
Zimmerman M.	Ralph Zimmerman	10	APR 1897	Altona		1	
Lihmback, J.	Vera Lihmback	11	MAR 1896	Garrett		1	
Lihmback, T.	Chas. Lihmback	8	JUL 1899	Garrett		1	
Crago, G.	Emerson Cargo	14	AUG 1892	Huntington		1	
Crago, S.	John Crago	12	APR 1895	Huntington		1	
	Harman Crago	9	DEC 1897	Huntington		1	
	Cary Crago	7	JUN 1899	Huntington		1	
Miller, C.	Fern Miller	10	AUG 1897	Cedar		1	
Miller, J.							
Dick, J.	Amos Dick	12	SEP 1894	Mchport, PA		1	
Dick, Mary	Esther Dick	10	JUL 1896	Mchport, PA		1	

PARENTS	Children	AGE	DoB	Place/BiRth			
	Vera Darling	6	SEP 1901	Altona		2	
Button, Gertrude	Hazel Button	6	JUL 1900	Stuben Co.		2	
Newbouer, Frank	Newbour, Mary	18	SEP 1889	Albion		3	
	Newbour, Rosa	20	NOV 1887	Albion		3	
	Newbour, Willie	12	JUN 1883	Altona		3	
	Newbour, Mamie	9	APR 1898	North Balto, O.		3	
Keller, Sherman	Earl Keller	16	DEC 1891	Bit;er		3	
	Murtle Keller	12	JU 1894	Ashley		3	
	Anna Keller	9	JUL 1897	Illinois		3	
	Hazel Keller	7	APR 1900	Indianpolis		3	
Smith,Kate	Arlene Brown	10	AUG 1897	Garrett		3	
Ross, Chas.	Robert Ross	7	FEB 1900	Altona		3	
Hathaway, Alton	Aleda Hathaway	6	MAR 1901	Altona		3	
Runion, E. L.	Tona Runion	17	JAN 1889	Allen Co.		3	
	Chas Runion	13	SEP 1893	Allen Co.		3	
	Volorius Runyon	10	OCT 1897	Allen Co.		3	
	Argil Runion	8	OCT 1899	Allen Co,		3	
Davis, Geo.	Goldie Davis	11	FEB 1896	Altona		3	
Vananda, Chas.	Vela Vananda	14	AUG 1892	Altona		3	
Graham, Paul	Lena Graham	6	JAN 1901	Altona		3	
Ray, William	Harry Ray	6	APR 1901	Altona		3	
Tindle, John	Edna Tindle	11	MAR 1896	Spencerville		3	
	May Tindle	7	APR 1900	Spenerville		3	
	Golda Tindle	9	JAN 1898	Spencerville		3	
Fegler, Vesta	Blanch Fegler	14	JAN 1893	Altona		3	
Cannon, Guss.	Herby Cannon	18	FEB 1889	Garrett		3	
	Claud Cannon	15	MAR 1892	Garrett		3	
Kinney, Jas.	Ralph Kinney	13	APR 1894	Toledo, O.		3	
	Marie Kinney	11	OCT 1896	Butler		3	
Studd, Alfred	Alfred Studd [Jr.]	15	DEC 1892	England		3	
	Alline Studd	6	OCT 1901	England		3	
Ervin, Alvin	Alta Ervin	15	MAY 1892	DeKalb Co.		3	
	Loyd Ervin	14	JUN 1893	DeKalb Co.		3	
	Elma Ervin	12	DEC 1895	DeKalb Co.		3	
	Merrtt Ervin	7	JUL 1900	DeKalb Co.		3	

PARENTS	CHILDREN	AGE	DOB	Place/Birth			
	Fern Ervin	6	SEP 1901	DeKalb Co.		3	
Martin, Chas	Lotta Martin	15	OCT 1892	DeKalb Co.		4	
	Guy Martin	14	JUL 1893	DeKalb Co.		4	
	Ruth Martin	12	JAN 1895	DeKalb Co.		4	
	Hoberth Martin	10	JAN 1897	DeKalb Co.		4	
	Marrea Martin	8	JUN 1899	DeKalb Co.		4	
	Irene Martin	7	DEC 1900	DeKalb Co;		4	
Beckner, William	John Beckner	12	DEC 1895	DeKalb CO.		4	
	Ada Beckner	8	OCT 1898	DeKalb CO.		4	
	Esther Becker	15	JAN 1893	DeKalb Co.		4	
Baker, Josh	Geroge Baker	20	OCT 1886	Altona		4	
Baker, Lou	Josh Baker, Jr.	18	DEC 1888	Altona		4	
	Mary Baker	14	SEP 1892	Altona		4	
	Parker Baker	6	APR 1891	Altona		4	
Rogers, Henry	Cecil Rogers	7	JAN 1900	Altona		4	
Miller, George	Harry Miller	18	APR 1888	Breman, Ind.		4	
	Chas. Miller	17	FEB 1889	Breman, Ind.		4	
Smith, J. C.	Ella Smith	19	DEC 1888	DeKalb,Co.		4	
	Marna Smith	17	OCT 1890	DeKalb Co.		4	
	Grover Smith	15	NOV 1892	DeKalb Co.		4	
	Nellie Smith	12	JUL 1894	DeKalb Co.		4	
	Fred Smith	11	FEB 1896	DeKalb Co.		4	
Brown, Chas.	Harlon Brown	20	SEP 1887	Williams Co, O		4	
	Harvey Brown	18	SEP 1889	Williams Co, O		4	
Forsythe, Chas.	Morice Forsythe	17	OCT 1890	Illinois		4	
	Alpha Forsythe	13	JUN 1897	Illinois		4	
McCormik, Allen	Ollie McCormick	19	JUN 1897	Leo, Ind.		4	
	Frank McCormick	11	JUN 1888	Leo, Ind.		4	
Noise, H. E.	Geo. Shields	17	FEB 1893	Garrett		4	
	Florance Shields	20	JUL 1887	Altona		4	
	Millie Corpening	15	FEB 1893	Garrett		4	
Daub, Chas.	Cleo Daub	6	JAN 1901	DeKalb Co.		4	
Depew, Cary	Evert Depew	6	FEB 1901	DeKalb Co.		4	
Rogers, Edd	Ruth Rogers	14	MAY 1893	Chicago		4	
	Harris Rogers	8	APR 1899	Altona		4	

PARENTS	CHILDREN	AGE	DOB	Place/Birth			
DeLong, Michael	Blanch Dove	15	JUL 1891	Chicago		5	
Kemery, William	Hazel Kemery	17	AUG 1890	DeKalb Co.		5	
	Nellie Kemery	13	APR 1894	DeKalb Co.		5	
	Hattie Kemery	10	MAY 1896	DeKalb Co.		5	
Hall, F. W.	Jay Hall	20	APR 1887	Altona	5		
Draine, Edd.	Roy Draine	20	JUN 1886	Altona	5		
	Enza Draine	14	MAR 1893	Altona	5		
	Fray Eraine	10	JAN 1897	Altona	5		
Rodaubaugh, J.	Oral Rodaubaugh	16	JUN 1891	Allen Co.	5		
	Ira Rodaubaugh	14	SEP 1893	Allen Co.	5		
	Roy Rodaubaugh	12	MAR 1895	Allen Co.	5		
	Haral Rodaubaugh	8	OCT 1898	Allen Co.	5		
Maggert, John	Josie Maggert	20	AUG 1886	Allen Co.	5		
	Hazel Maggert	18	DEC 1889	Altona	5		
Davis, Ruben	Larvie Davis	20	MAR 1887	Wolf Lake	5		

ALTONA BASEBALL TEAM OF 1910

First row, left to right -- George Baker, Jay Hall, Dore Houser;
second row -- Jess Ross, Tom Houser, Vern Alman and Harry Maggert;
top row -- John Watier, Bill Ray, Newton DePew.

Picture taken 1916/17. Only Gilard O. Cramer and his brother Everett Cramer are identified. Gailard, born August 1911, was probably in first grade. He is wearing a hat in the front row. Everett, is in the second row with hands folded and wearing white shirt and hat. (Shirley Cramer Brown)

ALTONA VOLLEYBALL & BASKETBALL TEAMS - 1929-1930

Standing left to right: Ed DePew, George Davis, Walter Wood, Coach Jay F. Olinger, John Bherns, Ervin Reed, Charles Miller

Sitting left to right: Kenny Reed, Earl DePew, Jack Anderson, Fred Hall, ? Kooken, unknown

ALTONA BASKETBALL TEAM - 1929-1930

Players left to right: Kenny Reed, Ed DePew, John Bherns, Ervin Reed, Walter Wood

Jay F. Olinger - Coach

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days: 29-30
GRADES: 1 thru ?
TEACHER: Mrs.Deetz

Top row, L-R: Bob Hall, Jim Runion, unknown, Morris Royer, Mrs. Deetz, ? Deetz, Adrian Runion, Ed Runion, unknown, Murland Anderson

Third row: unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, Marguerite Anderson, Louella Baker, unknown, Joan Kelham, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown

Second row: Leah Anderson, unknown, unknown, unknown, Betty Ross, Audrey Feagler, Virginia Malcolm, unknown, unknown, Eileen Malcolm

First row: unknown, unknown, Everett Runion, Ralph Carper, Marv Halll, Joe Carper, Duard Wilmot, Kenny Rummel, Joe Leeson, Arthur DePew

PICTURE SUBMITTED WITHOUT NAMES.

PICTURE SUBMITTED WITHOUT NAMES

Bill Newbauer says his dad wrote skits
For this traveling troupe. Admission…3 cents.

PICTURE TAKEN IN ALTONA SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - December 12-13, 1930

Top row, L-R: Frank Reeves, Josh Baker, Lee Wilmot, Clyde Davis, Paul Wilmot, Jay Olinger, Martin R., Darl Marker
Third row: Bub Draime, Leona Comisky, Ivan Reasoner, Mr. Carper, Roy Frances, Mr. Fee, Ina Rodebaugh, Art Comisky, Isa Runion, Frank Draime
Second row: Cliff Runion, Phil Anderson, Mr. Gandy, Mr. Williard, Frank Bechtal, Grover Feagler, Frank Smith, Clarence DePew, Mr. Mason, Bill Newbauer, Clyde Deetz
Front row (Three boys): Kenneth Anderson, Junior Newbauer, Murland Anderson

930-31 SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE ALTONA BASKETBALL TEAM — This picture is mitted by Duke Davis of 502 South Peters street whose father, the late George Davis, is the ond one from the right standing. Those in the picture are: seated, left to right—Jack Ander-, John Kooken, Ben Baker and Fred Hall; standing—Kenny Reed (deceased), John Bherns, ich Jay Olinger (deceased), Mr. Davis and Loren DePew.

GARRETT WINS COUNTY JUNIOR HIGH TOURNAMENT

The local junior high boys are 1934 county basketball champions. They won all their games in the tournament held at the Garrett gym last week and won the tournament and pennant.

The local team consisted of Charles Hamm, John Sapp, Ben Franklin, Edward Muzzillo, Leonard Alford, Lee Hughes, Harl Brown, Al Doster, Chalmer Recktenwald and John Grimm, with Dean McBride acting as student manager.

The schedule started Wednesday night with Waterloo defeating the Garrett Catholics, 18 to 9. This was the closest game of the opening round. The second game was between Butler and West Richland county school, which the former won 36 to 3. Altona and North Keyser tangled next, but the smaller North Kayser boys were unable to cope with their larger opponents and lost 53 to 4. Garrett and Ashley played the last game that night, Garrett winning 35 to 3.

The two games on the second night were different. Both were exceptionally close, being won only in the final minute of play. In the opener, Waterloo defeated Butler 12 to 10, after trailing during the first three quarters. Waterloo secured its winning basket just before the final whistle sounded. The fray between Garrett and Altona was a real battle. Garrett took the lead at the start, scoring two baskets soon after the whistle blew. Just before the first half ended Garrett held a 7 point lead but in the last minute Altona made 2 field goals, the half ending Garrett 14, Altona 11. Soon after the start of the second half Altona tied the count at 14 all, but Garrett immediately pulled away to 20 to 14. Altona came back to 20 to 22 count. The final minutes were frenzied efforts of both teams to keep the ball in their possession. Garrett won 28 to 23.

In the finals Friday, Garrett disposed of Waterloo 26 to 9. It was a hard fought game, neither team counting many of its shots from field or free line.

ALTONA BASKETBALL TEAM
1933 DEKALB COUNTY CHAMPION

THE 1933 ALTONA TEAM won the Dekalb County grade school championship by beating Auburn in the finals. Team members and where they now live were (front row, left to right): Edward Runion, Garrett; Reed (Ben) Baker, unknown; Fred Hall, Altona; Loren DePew, Wolcottville; Earl DePew, Garrett; (second row) Charles Miller, Garrett; Murland Anderson, Fort Wayne; Teacher and Coach Jay F. Olinger, deceased; Maurice Royer, Ligonier; and Hollis Greenfield, unknown.

THE ALTONA BASKETBALL TEAM

The very best basketball team of all,
Which has hardly known defeat or fall.
But they take it like men when they are behind,
Yes, they are the best team you can find.

There's Murland and Eddie and the substitute Joe,
Loren, Earl and Turkey, here we go.
The coach, Jay Olinger, now we meet,
All the kinds think he can't be beat.

I'm quite sure you must have heard it told,
That in their suits of black and gold.
They're the handsomest team on the floor,
But handsomer still is their score.

From beginning to end they play fair and square,
Because of this they're known every where.
There was never a group of boys with such high esteem,
As our own Altona basketball team.

—By Majane Patterson.

ALTONA BASKETBALL TEAM
1933 DEKALB COUNTY CHAMPION

THE 1933 ALTONA TEAM won the Dekalb County grade school championship by beating Auburn in the finals. Team members and where they now live were (front row, left to right): Edward Runion, Garrett; Reed (Ben) Baker, unknown; Fred Hall, Altona; Loren DePew, Wolcottville; Earl DePew, Garrett; (second row) Charles Miller, Garrett; Murland Anderson, Fort Wayne; Teacher and Coach Jay F. Olinger, deceased; Maurice Royer, Ligonier; and Hollis Greenfield, unknown.

ALTONA 1934 BASKETBALL TEAM

Players L-R: Earl Depew, Ed Runion, Murland Anderson, Loren Depew, Maurice Royer
Coach Jay Olinger

GARRETT WINS COUNTY JUNIOR HIGH TOURNAMENT

The local junior high boys are 1934 county basketball champions. They won all their games in the tournament held at the Garrett gym last week and won the tournament and pennant.

The local team consisted of Charles Hamm, John Sapp, Ben Franklin, Edward Muzzillo, Leonard Alford, Leo Hughes, Harl Brown, Al Doster, Charlmer Becktenwald and John Grimm, with Dean McBride acting as student manager.

The schedule started Wednesday night with Waterloo defeating the Garrett Catholics 18 to 9. This was the closest game of the opening round. The second game was between Butler and West Richland county school, which the former won 36 to 3. Altona and North Keyser tangled next but the smaller North Keyser boys were unable to cope with the larger opponents and lost 53 to 4. Garrett and Ashley played the last game that night, Garrett winning 35 to 3.

The two games on the second night were different. Both were exceptionally close, being won only in the final minute of play. In the opener, Waterloo defeated Butler 12 to 10, after trailing during the first three quarters. Waterloo secured its winning basket just before the final whistle sounded. The fray between Garrett and Altona was a real battle. Garrett took the lead at the start, scoring two baskets soon after the whistle blew. Just before the first half ended Garrett held a 7 point lead, but in the last minute, Altona made 2 field goals, the half ending Garrett 14, Altona 11. Soon after the start of the second half Altona tied the count at 14 all, but Garrett immediately pulled away to 20 to 14. Altona came back to 20 to 22 count. The final minutes were frenzied efforts of both teams to keep the ball in their possession. Garrett won 28 to 23.

In the finals, Friday Garrett disposed of Waterloo 26 to 9. It was a hard fought game, neither team counting many of its shots from field or free line.

Earl DePew
Ed Runion
Murland Anderson
Loren DePew
Morris Royer
Coach Jay Olinger

THE ALTONA BASKETBALL TEAM

The very best basketball team of all,
Which has hardly known defeat or fall,
But they take it like men when they are behind.
Yes, they are the best team you can find.

There's Marland and Eddie and the substitute Joe,
Loren, Earl and Turkey, here we go.
The coach, Jay Olinger, now we meet.
All the kids think he can't be beat.

I'm quite sure you must have heard it told,
That in their suits of black and gold,
They're the handsomest team on the floor,
But handsomer still is their score.

From beginning to end they play fair and square,
Because of this they're known everywhere.
There was never a group of boys with such high esteem,
As our own Altona basketball team.

By Majane Patterson

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days 33-34
GRADES: 1 thru 4
TEACHER: Mrs Forman

BR = Jay F. Olinger, Berteline Foreman, Delilah Penland, Bermuda Vaughn, June Ross, Mart Rommel
R3 = Jack Miller, Edward Ross, Helen Hillegass, Phyllis Anderson, Beryl Kooken, Evelyn Leeson, Ruth Traster, Mary Bloom, Reba Ellis, Roberta Hillegass, Helen Leeson, June Penland
R2 = Scott Malcom Jr., Paul A. Anderson, Marvin Hall, Glenn Greenfield, Fred Tindall, Harold Stiles, Jack Penland, Dale Strock, Harry Runion, Paul Tindall
FR = Paul Vaughn, Richard Ellis, Aden Carper, Junior Anderson, Roger Leeson, Jake Hall, George Traster, Harold Carper, Donald Royer, Robert Bloom

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days 33-34

TEACHER: Jay Olinger

Back Row: Mrs. Olinger, Jay F. Olinger, Margurette Anderson, Majorie Patterson, Ruth Baker, DeRoyal Penland, Bernice Miller, Mary Ross, Joan Kellam

Row Four: Carl Mason, Basil Penland, Adrian Runion, Maurice Royer, Murland Anderson, Edward Runion, Mr. Rommel, Mrs. Forman

Row Three: Betty Mason, Arlene Malcolm, Alma Hillegass, Betty Ross, Hilda Vaughn, Betty Miller, Opal Runion, Madge Traister, Alelia Anderson, Vergiana Malcolm, Audry Fegler, Maxine Bowman

Row Two: Carl DePew, Tony Runion, Bob Carper, Arthur DePew, Aliezander Yanesuski, Valentine Yanesuski, Red Leeson, Jimmy Runion, Deward Wilmot, Joe Carper

Front Row: Bus Runion, Franklin Hillegass, Ralph Carper, Everett Bodey, Edwin Yanesuski, Keith Strock, Kenny Rommel, Bob Hall

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days 34-35
GRADES: 1 thru 4
TEACHER: Violet Hall

BR = Ruth Traster, Junior Anderson, Jake Hall, Aden Carper, Dale Strock, Glenn Greenfield, Virginia Mankowski, June Penland (maybe), Beryl Kooken
R3 = ? ?, Mary Bloom, Paul Tindall, Harry Runion, Evelyn Leeson, Jack Miller, Scot Malcolm, Bob Bloom, Dick Ellis, Helen Hillegass
R2 = Donald Royer, Manford Armstrong, Helen Leeson, George Traster, Roberta Hillegass, Harold Carper, Roger Leeson, Paul Vaughn
FR = Ilene Bloom, Junior Schlotterback, Mary Hall, John Hall, Reba Ellis, George Shields, Norman Runion, ? ?, Margaret Mankowaski (maybe)

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days: 1936-1937*

Grades: 1 thru 4

Teacher: Violet Hall

* Best guess on years

Back row: Mart Rommel, Violet Hall, Ruth Traster, Catherin Wiseman
Third row: Marjorie Strock, Mary Hall, Helen Leeson, Louise Covella, Marjorie Tarlton, Anna Mae Tarlton, Roberta Hillegass, Margaret Mankowski, Norma Armstrong, Reba Ellis, Laura Mae Persel, Edith Ellis
Second row: Junior Anderson, Norman Runion, Manford Armstrong, Paul Vaughn, Junior Scholotterback, Harold Ross, George Traster, Paul Maurer
Front row: Wayne Maurer, George Shields, Dick Tarlton, Lee Tarlton, James Anderson, John Hall, Dave Gerst, Charles Traster

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days: 19?? thru 19??
GRADES: ? thru ?
TEACHER: Mrs. Deetz

Top row, L-R: Ed Runion, unknown, unknown, unknown, Howard Greenfield, unknown, Robert Hall, Kathryn Wiseman, Marguerite Anderson, Joan Kelham
Third row: unknown, Loren DePew, Fred Hall, Adrian Runion, Merk Royer, unknown, unknown, Jack Anderson, Fred Tindall, unknown
Second row: Mary Ross, Audrey Feagler, Virginia Malcolm, Mary Champion, Opal Runion, Kathlyn Stiles, Betty Ross, Aleah Anderson, unknown, unknown
Front row: John Gibson, Robert Carper, Jim Runion, Jr. Runion, Joe Carper, Duard Wilmot, Valentine Younsaki, Arthur DePew, Marvin Hall, Joe Leeson

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days: 1937-1938
Grades: 1 thru 4
Teacher: Violet Hall

Back row: Mart Rommel, Violet Hall
Third row: Jean Bloom, Joan Bloom, Mary Maggert, Shirley Baker, Marjorie Strock, Margaret Monkowski, Ilien Bloom, Rosa Bloom, Mary Hall, Reba Ellis, Laura May P
Second row: Charles Traster, Paul Maurer, unknown boy, Bill Ballentine, Dick Tarlton, Wayne Maurer, unknown boy, ? Armstrong, Edith Ellis
Front row: Dave Gerst, Norman Runion, George Traster, Harold Rose, Dick Hurd, John Hall, Lee Tarlton, George Shields, Robert Hillegass

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days: 37-38
GRADES: 5 thru 8
TEACHER: Chester Lung

Top row: L-R: Helen Hillegass, unknown, Helen Leeson, unknown, June Ballentine, unknown, Mr. Lung (Teacher)
Third row: Martin Rummel (Janitor), Phyllis Anderson, June Ross, unknown, Imogene Armstrong, Bermuda Vaughn, Virginia Mankowski, Evelyn Leeson, Beryl Kooken, unknown, Kathryn Wiseman
Second row: Harry Runion, Dale Strock, Paul Anderson, Glen Greenfield, unknown, Kenny Rummel, Everett Runion, Eugene Wiseman, Marvin Hall, Harold Stiles
Front row: Bob Bloom, Dick Ellis, Jack Miller, Bob Ballentine, Ed Ross, Manford Armstrong, Phil Anderson, Paul Vaughn, Jake Hall

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days: 1940-1941

Grades: 5 thru 8

Teacher: Chester Lung

Back row: June Ballentine, Anna Mae Tarlton, unknown boy, Paul Vaughn, Jake Hall, Junior Anderson, George Traster, Mary Bloom, Marjorie Tarlton, Helen Leeson, Chester Lung

Second row: Roberta Hillegass, Mary Hall, Rosa Bloom, Margaret Mankowski, Barb Myers, Ilien Bloom, Donna Hollis, Marjorie Strock, Betty Rouch, Reba Ellis

Front row: James Anderson, Bill Ballentine, Lee Tarlton, Dick Tarlton, Dave Gerst, Paul Mauer, Harold Ross, George Sheilds

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days 44-45
GRADES: 1 thru 4
TEACHER: Violet Hall

BR = Robert Davis, Jack Shepherd, Cola Crager, Wilber Bloom, Max Kock, Pedro Colon, Miss. Hall
R3 = Herman Maurer, Norman Shepherd, Mable Shepherd, Reba Knapp, Barbara Malcolm, Florance Maurer, Janet Smith, Nancy Kock
R2 = John McBride, Carl Crager, Auther Shepherd, James Swank, Frances Swank, Carolyn Maggert, Marilyn Wonsetler, David Depew
FR = Clayton Maggert, John Griffith, Rival McBride, Clinton Bhernes, Clifford Maggert, Richard Maggert, Charles Hillegass, Glenn Murray

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days 44-45
GRADES: 5 thru 8
TEACHER: Ruth Gorrell

BR = Joan Bloom, Patty Hall, Lois Kock, Shirley Baker, Beverly Perdy, Doris Jean Wilder, Arthur Meyers, George Shields
R3 = Mrs. Gorrell, Charles Traster, Ivan Knapp, Kennith ?, Norman Runion, John Hall, Kess Crager
R2 = Mary Maggert, Edith Ellis, Roberta Ross, Jean Bloom, Bethel Crager, Doris Dolan, Beverly Wonsitler
FR = William Maggert, Wayne Maurer, Robert Hillegass, Elenor Maggert, Juanita Maggert, Sally Bixler, Mary Hillegass

Kenneth? Isenbarger

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days 46-47

GRADES: 1 thru 4

TEACHER: Violet Hall

BR = Reba Knapp, Nancy Kock, Nancy Martin, Bette Bigelow, Eugene Martin, Pauline Spencer, Miss. Hall, Nancy Yarde
R4 = Monna Knapp, Judy Reed, Rose Swank, La-cleeda Hathaway, Martha Woodcox, Donna Fritz, Sally Yarde, Janet Knapp, Barbara Hall, Marilyn Wonsitler
R3 = Arlyn Woodcox, Eston Hathaway, Buddy Wagler, Dennis Coil, Tom Harmon, Clifford Maggert, Dorthy Duff, David Depew, Carl Crager, Glenn Conley
R2 = James Swank, Glen Murray, Clinton Bhernes, Clifton Hathaway, John Griffith, Robert Harmon, David Conley
R1 = Bruce Crager, Clayton Maggert, Herman Maury, Jimmy Malcolm, Richard Maggert, Lee Yarde, Charles Hillegass, Donald Chisholm

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days ?? - ?? 1947

GRADES: 5 thru 8

TEACHER: Gertrude Swanders

BR = Maina McNutt, Andrew Brooks, Roberta Ross, John Hall, A?, Edith Ellis, Doris Dolan, Mrs. Swandus
R4 = Barbara Malcolm, Elinor Maggert, Sally Bixler, B?, Margaret Coil, Carrie Harmon
R3 = Mary Hillegass, Pat Hall, Bethel Crager, Kathleen Harmon, Florence Maurer, Carolyn Maggert, Frances Swank, Jack Riccus, Juanita Maggert
R2 = Robert Davis, Max Kock, Petro Colon, Karen Bigelow, ? Maurer, Veradean Anderson, Keith Anderson
FR = William Maggert, Merle Steller, Cola Crager

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days 46-47

GRADE: Eight

TEACHER: Mrs Johnston

BR = Rochelle Neff, Barbara Malcolm, Kathleen Harmon, Karen Bigelow, Florence Maurer, Mrs. Faye Johnston
FR = Cola Crager, Max Kock

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days 47-48
GRADES: 1-4
TEACHER: Mrs Hall

BR = Eston Hathaway, Clifton Hathaway, Laura Livergood, Pauline Spencer, Elnor Livergood, Janet Knapp, Nancy Martin, Carl Crager, Robert Harmon, Violet Hall
R3 = Belva Crager, Rose Swank, LaCleeda Hathaway, Edweena Spencer, Dorthy Duff, Judith Reed, Myrna Knapp, Kay Wilmot, Martha Woodcox, Donna Fritz, Tommy Harmon
R2 = Glenn Murray, Donald Chisholm, James Malcolm, Clifford Maggert, Robert Livergood, Fred Hall, Herman Maurer, Richard Maggert, Dennis Coil
FR = Tony Steller, Austin Spencer, Melvin Maggert, Wilbur Maurer, Kenneth Feightner, Jerry Chisholm, Lawrence Wagner

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days 47-48
GRADES: 5 thru 8
TEACHER: Faye Johnson

BR = Kathleen Harmon, Nancy Yarde, Kristeen Spencer, Margaret Coil, Mary Hillegass, Sally Bixler, Barbara Malcolm, Karen Bigelow, Mrs. Johnson
R3 = Vermadean Anderson, Betty Bigelow, Elenor Maggert, Barbara Hall, Marilyn Wonsitler, Carolyn Maggert, Nancy Kock, Juanita Maggert, Florance Maurer, Frances Swank, Reba Knapp
R2 = Eugene Martin, Herbert Maurer, John Livergood, William Maggert, Max Kock, Arlyn Woodcox, Robert Davis, Cola Grager, Junior Brooks
FR = Clayton Maggert, Charles Hillegass, James Swank, John Griffith, Clinton Bhemes, Pedro Colon

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days 47-48 (Eighth grade)

TEACHER: Faye Johnson

BR = Junior Brooks, Margaret Coil, Mary Hillegass, Sally Bixler, Mrs. Faye Johnson
FR = William Maggert, Juanita Maggert, Elenor Maggert, Herbert Maurer

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days 48-49
GRADES: 1 thru 4
TEACHER: Violet Hall

BR = Miss Hall, Lacleeda Hathaway, Myrna Knapp, Robert Livergood, Elenor Livergood, Carl Crager, Janet Knapp, Glen Conley, Judy Reed, Martha Woodcox, Rose Swank
R3 = Martha Fightner, Gale Conley, ? Conley, Mae Hathaway, Girl J?, Dorothy Duff, Mary Swank, Girl L?
R2 = Boy D?, Boy E?, James Shirk, David Miller, Jack Davis, Fred Hall, Jerry Chisholm, Kenny Fightner, Buddy Wagler, Tom Harmon, Boy W?
FR = Bruce Crager, Guy Hillegass, Larry Miller, Michael Depew, John Reed, Ralph Maggert, Bill Hoyer, Melvin Maggert, Jerald McBride

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days 48-49
GRADES: 5 thru 8
TEACHER: Faye Johnson

BR = Karen Bigelow, Nancy Yarde, Cola Crager, Eugene Martin, Max Kock, John Livergood, Arlyn Woodcox, Barbara Malcolm, Kathleen Harmon, Kristeen Spencer, Mrs. Johnson

R3 = Florance Maurer, Laura Livergood, Nancy Martin, Reba Knapp, Vermadean Anderson, Nancy Kock, Frances Swank, Barbara Hall, Carolyn Maggert, Michael Kock

R2 = Glenn Murray, Eston Hathaway, Rival McBride, Jack Hoyer, Bruce Crager, John McBride, Clinton Bhernes, Cliffton Hathaway, James Swank, Robert Davis, John Griffith

FR = Clifford Maggert, Richard Maggert, Tom Harmon, David Conley, Robert Harmon, Donnie Payton, David Depew, Charles Hillegass, Clayton Maggert

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days 49-50
GRADES: 1 thru 4
TEACHER: Violet Hall

Girl I
martha
Woodcox

BR = Robert Livergood, Glen Conley, Girl P?, Myrna Knapp, Belva Crager, Lacleeda Hathaway, Jack Hoyer, Jerald McBride, Larry Miller, Miss Hall
R3 = Bill Hoyer, Gale Conley, ? Conley, Steve Depew, Mae Hathaway, Diane Miller, Girl I?, Martha Fightner, Diana Bhems, Girl K?, Harriett Malcolm, Mary Swank, Wilma Wonsetler
R2 = Jack Davis, Michael Depew, Fred Hall, Melvin Maggert, Jerry Chisholm, Wilber Maurer, James Shirk, Michael Kock
FR = Guy Hillegass, ? Payton, Bruce Crager, Boy C?, Leon Chisholm, Ralph Maggert

ALTONA GRADE SCHOOL

School Days 49-50
GRADES: 5-8
TEACHER: Mrs Johnston

BR = Faye Johnston, Nancy Yarde, Carl Crager, Arlyn Woodcox, John Livergood, Robert Davis, Eugene Martin, Reba Knapp, Vermadean Anderson, Laura Livergood
R3 = Nancy Kock, Barbara Moorehouse, Martha Woodcox, Bette Mae Bigelow, Elnor Livergood, Donna Molter, Nancy Martin, Janet Knapp, Frances Swank, Marilyn Wansitler, Carolyn Maggert
R2 = Clifton Hathaway, Robert Harmon, Glenn Murray, Donald Payton, Billy Hoyer, David DePew, James Swank, Jack Hoyer, John McBride, Bruce Crager, Clinton Bherns
FR = Richard Hoyer, David Conley, Charles Hillegass, Donald Chisholm, Clifford Maggert, Thomas Harmon, Rival McBride, Clayton Maggert, John Griffith

Sue Carpenter

Members of the Maggert family include sisters (front from left) Juanita Mae Kline, Carolyn Sue Creager, Mary Cathern Higgins, Eleanor Marie Peruca and Wava Lee Woodward. In back are brothers Bill Maggert, Ralph "Bootie" Maggert, Sam Maggert, Cliff "Hoggie" Maggert, Clayton "Clayt" Maggert and Melvin "Jake" Maggert. The family was honored by the Garrett Alumni Saturday.

Mayor Wiant proclaims Maggert Day in Garrett

Proclamation

WHEREAS: July 17, 2004 l be a special day to recog- e the 11 children of Francis d Forrest "Sport" Maggert

WHEREAS: The siblings e Mary Higgins, William Bill," Eleanor Peruca, Juanita line, Carolyn Creager, lifford "Hoggie," Clayton Clayte," Richard "Sam," lelvin "Jake," Ralph "Booty," nd Wava Woodward Maggert.

WHEREAS: The City of Garrett, in conjunction with Garrett High School Alumni recognize July 17, 2004 a special day for all 11 Maggerts that attended Garrett High School over a span of about 20 years

NOW THEREFORE, I Mayor David "Frog" Wiant" do hereby proclaim Saturday, July 17, 2004 as Maggert Day.

In witness whereof,I have unto set my hand, and cause the Seal of the City of Garrett to be affixed.

Signed
David T. Wiant, Mayor
City of Garrett

Garrett alumni honor Maggert Family

Garrett Clipper July 19 2004

BY SUE CARPENTER
suec@kpcnews.net

GARRETT— The odds of all 11 children of Forrest and Francis (Reed) Maggert of Altona living past the age of 60 are pretty high. Even greater are the odds that all 11 attended Garrett schools.

The chances for all 11 of the Maggert brothers and sisters to attend the Garrett Alumni Reunion Luncheon Saturday afternoon were astronomical. But when the roll call was made during the alumni program in the Performing Arts Center Saturday afternoon, all 11 were in attendance.

Garrett alumnus Aaron Smith noted the significance of the Maggert family to many in Garrett.

"What are the chances that everyone in the room has in some way been touched by the family known as the Maggerts?" he asked.

"When you were a Maggert, and at least 8 years old, you learned to love onions," Smith said. "It so happens that, unfortunately, the Maggert house in Altona was surrounded by black muck ... good for growing onions."

Each of the family members worked in the onion fields for about 15 cents an hour, then rode the slow-moving freight trains down to the B&O pits to swim, Smith added.

Even though the siblings went their separate ways, they all came back for Christmas, one of the fondest memories held by the family, remarked Smith. And every one of them attended church on Sundays, he added.

SUE CARPENTER

Members of the Maggert family include sisters (front from left) Juanita Mae Kline, Carolyn Sue Creager, Mary Catherine Higgins, Eleanor Marie Peruca and Wava Lee Woodward. In back are brothers Bill Maggert, Ralph "Bootie" Maggert, Sam Maggert, Cliff "Hoggie" Maggert, Clayton "Clayt" Maggert and Melvin "Jake" Maggert. The family was honored by the Garrett Alumni Saturday.

Six brothers and five sisters, including a set of twins, were introduced on stage during the afternoon program.

Mayor David Wiant made a surprise proclamation declaring Saturday, July 17, 2004, as Maggert Day in Garrett. He congratulated each of the Maggert children and handed them a copy of the proclamation.

"Our parents would be very proud," said one of the sisters. Another sister added that "it took a miracle to pull this off," in getting all 11 to Saturday's reunion.

Family members include:

• Mary Catherine Higgins, 73, lived in Florida for 17 years before returning to Garrett. She worked in several restaurants and the bakery in town.

• William John "Bill" retired from Warner Gear.

• Eleanor Marie Peruca also worked in the restaurant business, and now lives in Lake Place, Fla.

• Juanita Mae Kline lived in San Diego, Calif., for many years. She worked at Magnavox and has been employed at Electric Motors & Specialties in Garrett for the past 18 years.

• Carolyn Sue Creager has worked at Kraft Candy Kitchens and Stanadyne in Garrett. She currently lives in Garrett.

• Twins Clifford Charles "Hoggie" and Clayton William "Clayt" or "Arch" were the only set of twins of the Maggert family.

Hoggie, a boxer with the Raymond Saxer DeKalb County Boxing Club in his youth, worked at Thurman's Flexible Products and retired from Electric Motors & Specialties. He lives in Garrett.

Clayt spent most of his young adult life playing baseball, making it to AAA with the Detroit Tigers organization. He then spent several years as clubhouse manager.

According to Clayt's brother Jake, "He could have made it up to the bigs, but he couldn't field and couldn't hit — but could run like a deer," said Smith.

• Richard Joseph "Sam" spent four years in the U.S. Air Force stationed in Japan, and worked more than 35 years on the B&O Railroad.

• Melvin Maurice "Jake" had an outstanding basketball career at Garrett High School, attended Giffen College to star for the college team, and then spent four years in the U.S. Air Force attached to special services to play basketball and pitch softball. Upon his return to Indiana, he continued to pitch fast-pitch softball in the tri-state area for 25 years. He worked at Stanadyne in Garrett for 23 years and at BRC Rubber for 12 years.

• Ralph Bruce "Zombie" or "Booty" also works at Electric Motors & Specialties. He also worked for the Garrett Street Department.

• Wava Lee Woodward was a Garrett High School cheerleader. She married at a young age and moved to Alaska, where she still lives.

Altona School reunion

For the first time in several years, Altona School alumni gathered for an open house at the town hall Sunday afternoon.

About 40 former students signed the guest book, according to Laura Livergood McDermot. Guests looked over old photos and recalled school days in the two-room school house on Co. Rd. 48, just west of Co. Rd. 9 in Altona.

The school opened in 1877 and continued until the new J.E. Ober Elementary School opened in 1956. During its final year, only grades four and five were offered, making its youngest alumni some 60 years old.

Among photos on display were the 1933-34 Altona grade school team that won the county basketball championship, class photos from 1933 - 1955, and the Altona Methodist Church choir.

"There are a lot of memories here," organizer Reba Sliger said at the open house. Some alumni traveled from as far as Oklahoma, Ohio and Michigan to attend events in conjunction with Garrett Alumni weekend.

Not only did Altona attendees recall school days, but many childhood memories outside of the class, as well.

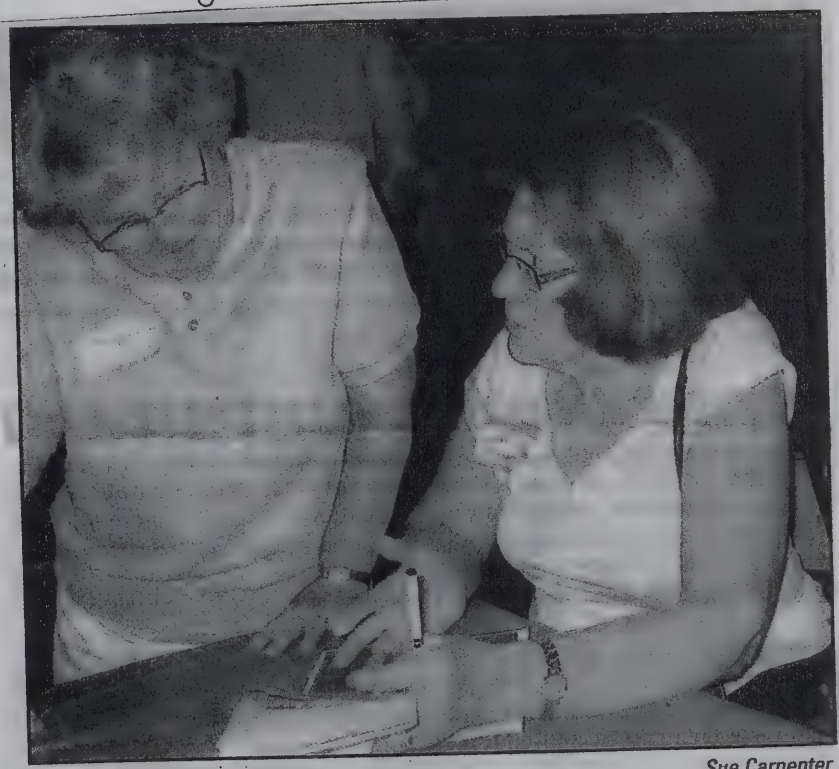
Across the street from the town hall, which formerly housed the Altona Fire Department, Alelia Anderson Barry's family owned a gas station and grocery store.

Virginia Manjowski Haney of Kendallville, recalled her father's barber shop next door to the gas station, where haircuts cost 10 cents apiece.

Both remembered neighbor Marv Hall tarring the toilet seat in an outhouse at Barry's childhood home. Hall, 84, figured he was the oldest alumni at the open house Sunday.

"We sure had some times," Barry said.

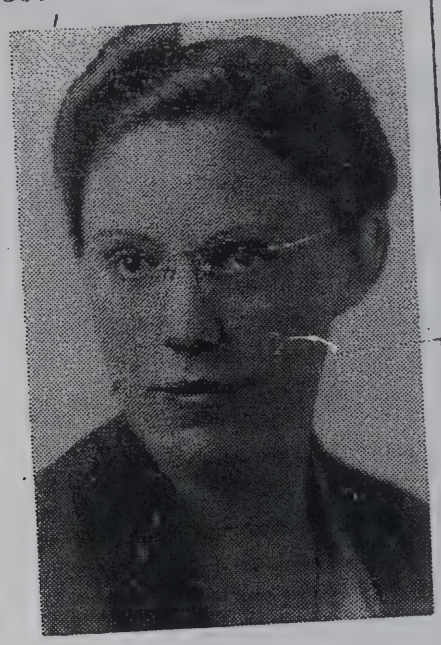
July 22, 2007



Sue Carpenter

Altona School alumni Laura Livergood McDermot (seated) and Marilyn Wansitler Morr, both of Auburn, look over photographs at town hall Sunday afternoon. More than 40 former students registered during the open house.

WHO'S WHO AMONG LOCAL TEACHERS



MISS VIOLET HALL
—Photo by Sheets.

Miss Hall teaches the first to the fourth grades at the Altona school. She was born near LaOtto and received her grade school training in rural schools of LaGrange and Whitley counties. She attended Garrett high school.

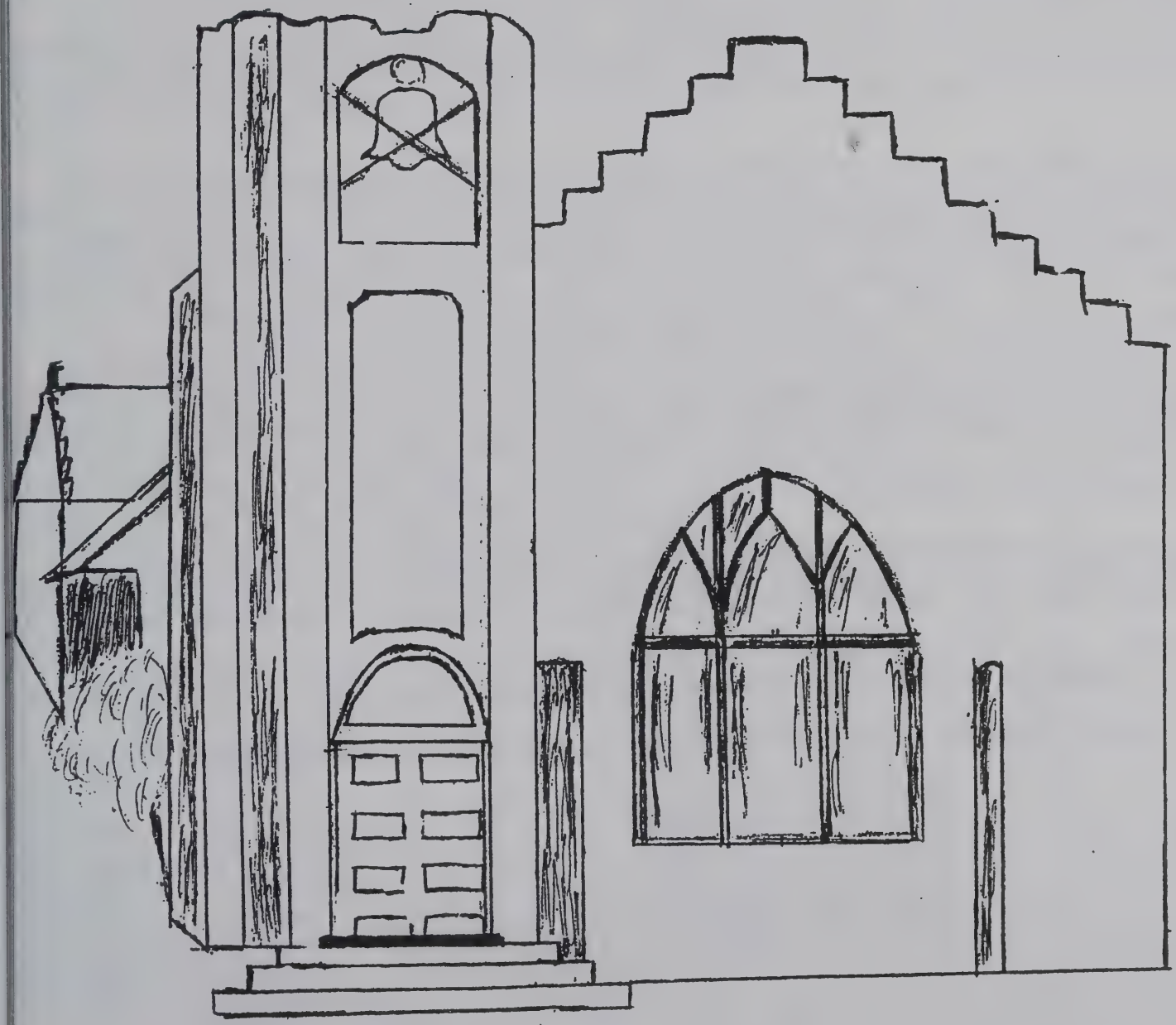
Miss Hall entered Tri State college at Angola after her high school graduation. She has also attended Ball State Teachers college. Her first teaching assignment was at the Sugar Grove school in Keyser township. She also taught in the North Keyser and Kelham schools before being assigned to Altona.

Miss Hall lives in Garrett at 500 Second avenue and is a member of the Methodist church.

History Of

Altona Church

Founded July 27, 1894



July 26, 1987

A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE ALTONA METHODIST CHURCH

Founded July 27, 1894

-by E. J. Gilford
(updated by Mrs. Dora Miller)

As the pioneers of the early Methodist Protestant Church began moving westward from Baltimore, they brought with them the love of the churches of their choice. Thus, in an early day what was known as the Hopewell Methodist Protestant Church was built one and one half miles south of Altona. It is said that this was the second church built in the county. Rev. H. Stackhouse served the Hopewell church from 1891-93. In 1893, Rev. E. J. Scott became the minister and on "July 27th, 1894, the membership of the Hopewell Church transferred to the Altona Church and the Butler Center Church, E. J. Scott, Pastor." This is a quote of a notation Rev. Scott wrote in the Membership Book kept at the Mitchell Street Methodist Church in Kendallville.

The Altona people then moved the old church to Altona and rebuilt it, and the Butler Center people built the brick church in Butler Center which was closed in 1962.

These two churches were connected with the Kendallville Circuit until August, 1898. At the Annual Conference held at Liberty Center, Wells County in August 1898, Altona and Butler Center were detached from the Kendallville Circuit and Rehobeth was detached from the St. Joe Circuit. Therefore, Rehobeth was added to Butler Center and Altona constituting the Altona Circuit.

The Altona membership met with a great loss on February 26, 1907, when their church burned, but out of the ruins of the old came the fine cement block church that has stood as a monument to the heroic efforts of the pastor and people and blessed by the Lord. Immediately after the fire, the consecrated pastor, Rev. P. W. Boxell, with his faithful members began to build a new church structure. On May 10, 1907, Rev. Boxell made the first cement block for the church and the new structure was dedicated May 31, 1908.

Upon extensive research both in the DeKalb County Courthouse at Auburn and the Noble County Courthouse at Albion, we do not find any record of the trustees of the Altona Church when it was organized in 1894, but we did find the Parsonage Trustees for 1894-95 who were Charles A. Shaffer, Martha Embry, H. E. Gettle, O. E. Clark, G. S. Henry and Ephrim Olinger. Nor did we find the trustees who rebuilt the church after the fire in 1907. However, we did find the trustees of the Parsonage in 1900 when C. W. Evans was pastor. They were John Maggert, George Probst, Benjamin Hawver and G. A. Adams. We also found the parsonage trustees in 1907 were John Maggert, Jonas Veasey and George Adams.

We further found in a newspaper account names of those who contributed their time and efforts in the rebuilding of the church in 1907. These were Oliver Weller, Charles Weller, Frank Yarde, John Maggert, Edward Kelham, James Kelham, Newton DePew, Sr., John Barber and others.

It is unfortunate that the names of others who put in many hours of thought, prayer and services were not recorded, but even though we do not know them by name, God knows!

The following ministers help make up the history of the Altona Methodist Church:

1894-1896	E. J. Scott
1896	A. O. Lucas
1896-1898	W. H. Green
1898 6 mo.	A. H. McClain
1899-1900	T. E. Lancaster
1900-1902	C. W. Evans
1902-1903	F. M. Hussey
1903-1904	P. B. Leach
1904-1906	C. A. Frakes
1906-1908	P. W. Boxell
1908-1910	W. S. Harper
1910-1911	W. S. Cooms
1911-1914	A. L. Wooton
1914-1915	E. L. Myers
1915-1916	J. W. Anderson
1916-1919	C. C. Farmer

Between the end of the first World War and 1925, we have J. H. Ramsey, J. R. Elson, O. Rardin, A. A. Irelan and V. B. Ratcliff. The average pastorate was one to three years.

1925-1931 (or these approximate dates to the best obtainable information) the church was closed. At the Annual Conference in August, 1931, Altona was dropped from the other two churches and became an independent church. Butler Center and Rehobeth churches were formedinto a circuit known as Garrett circuit. We will follow with the Altona Church past

1931-32 W. L. Heitz	1941-42 James D. Bell	1955-56 Carl Blackendorf
1932-33 G. M. McKinley	1942-44 D. B. Gray	1956-57 Eugene Stolte
1933-34 Mrs. C. H. Simons	1944-46 No pastor	1957-60 Jim M. Fritz
1934-35 P. W. Boxell	1946-47 T. Gottschalk	1960-62 Rev. Stafford
1935-38 Wm. D. Koehlien	1947-48 Chas. Joder	1962-63 Ed. Biehold
1938-40 A. L. Wooton	1948-51 E. J. Gilford	1963-64 Jim M. Fritz
1940-41 Earl Buskirk	1951-55 James Lantz	1964-66 Don Klopfenstein

ALTONA METHODIST CHURCH

Methodist Protestant Church in Altona began with a small congregation in 1894. Fire destroyed the frame building in 1907 and plans were made immediately for erection of a new edifice. In 1908 the new structure was dedicated with the construction cost of $5,000 already having been liquidated. Rev. P. W. Boxell directed the fund raising drive. Singing at the dedication were Hazel Maggert, May DePew, Lottie Fretz and Fred Darling.

Among subscribers to the building fund were John Maggert, H. E. Gettle, Ella DePew, Charles Weller, Frank Yarde, Benjamin Maggert, Edward Kelham, G. A. Adams, J. S. Veazey, A. H. McCormick, J. D. Shoemaker, Carey DePew, H. E. Rogers, W. O. Rogers, Claire Dowend, Ollie Pressler, Henry Murray, H. C. Riccius, Maurice Forsyth, Mrs. John Maggert, Martha Dick, Kate Smith, Martha Treesh and N. R. Allman.

In 1936 worship services became irregular and eventually the congregation disbanded. The building dedicated in 1908 still stands on West Quincy Street in Altona.

The new Altona Methodist Protestant Church, constructed entirely of cement blocks, was dedicated May 31, and Rev. P.W. Boxell was proud to announce that the entire cost of the church was paid. This replaced the white, frame church which had been destroyed by fire.

Because of the difficulty of securing ministers, services became irregular and eventually the congregation disbanded in 1936. The building dedicated in 1908 still stands on West Quincy Street in Altona.

SOURCES

Garrett Clipper, Garrett Indiana July 1-4, 1975, Centennial Edition

So Grows a City, Garrett Centennial

Garrett Clipper, Golden Anniversary Edition, Monday, January 20, 1936

THE ALTONA METHODIST CHURCH

Also in 1894, the Methodist congregation of Altona was formed. The members of the new group did not have a church in which to meet, but they solved that problem by moving one in from the country. Mrs. Earl Moughler, who was born in 1883, and is one of Garrett's most enduring—and endearing—ladies is the source of this information. The little white church was originally called Hopewell, and was located at the top of a hill on the southwest corner of county roads 54 and 7, south and west of Garrett. Mrs. Moughler attended Hopewell as a child and remembers walking up the hill with her Father on Sunday mornings. She reckons the time to be the very late 1880's, as her father died in 1890. She remembers that once for a Children's Day Program, her Mother released her hair from its customary braids and let it hang down, while she "spoke her piece" for the program. Orrin Clark, a well known farmer in these parts and father of several sons, used to sit in the same pew each Sunday, and Mrs. Moughler recalls that when called upon to witness, he would stand and say, "I love this familiar spot." Perhaps her favorite memory, though, is of the time there was a revival meeting, and a Mrs. Rice was the preacher. As a wee child, Mrs. Moughler was much impressed by the way Mrs. Rice handled a situation which arose during her sermon. It seems that one of the gentlemen in the congregation was chewing tobacco. Mrs. Rice stopped her sermon, and in Mrs. Moughler's words, "told him to go outside and put it on a chip, saying 'then no hog or dog will bother it.'" And "it wouldn't either," Mrs. Moughler finishes laughing delightedly.

Hopewell Church, possibly because of a declining membership, was purchased by the Altona group and moved straight north to Altona, where it served that congregation until 1907, when it burned down.

A number of buildings were moving around in Garrett during those early days, and the method used was rather interesting. Either dollies, or if the road was rough, wooden rollers, were inserted under the building to be moved, and a strong cable was attached. This cable was sometimes as long as a city block, and was attached at the other end to a large spool on a platform with wheels. Extending upward and then outward was what was called a sweep, and to this was harnessed a horse. The horse would circle the platform, moving the sweep and winding the cable up and around the spool (rather like reeling in a fishing line), and thus moving the building on the dollies or rollers. When the cable was all rolled up, the dollies were anchored, the horse pulled the platform forward, unreeling the cable to its full extent, and the procedure began again. Thus was Hopewell Church moved down County road 7 to County Road 48, in Altona, and then to its location, which was the place where the block church now stands.

ALTONA METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday School Class 1946

TEACHER: Mrs. Gray

BR = Edith Ellis, Jean Bloom, George Traster
R3 = Robert Hillegass, Lois Kock, Roberta Ross, Patty Hall, Mrs. Gray
R2 = Herbert Maurer, Wayne Maurer, Joan Bloom, Mary Maggert
FR = William Maggert, Elenor Maggert, Juanita Maggert, Mary Hillegass

ALTONA METHODIST CHURCH CHOIR 46/47

BR = Everlyn Patten, Lois Kock, Patty Hall, Edith Ellis, Doris Jean, Mr. Gray
R2 = Mrs. Gray, Beverly Wansitler, Max Kock, Doris Dolan, Roberta Ross, Mary Maggert
FR = Nancy Kock, Marilyn Wansitler, Elenor Maggert, Judy Reed, Richard Maggert, Carolyn Maggert

Juanita
Maggert

Guy's Sunday School class - Altona Methodist Church - 1952/53

Back Row: Nancy Helf, Michael Kock, Guy Hillegass
Front Row: Martha Swank, Mitchell Pearson, Wava Maggart, Karen Helf, Mary Swank, Wilma Wonsitler

ALTONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday School Class - About December middle to late 1960's [1955]

Back Row: Ben Swank, Linda Runion, David Brown, ? Dierson, ? Dierson

Front Row: Becky Bloom, Dan Myers, Janice DePew, Randy Brown, Linda Myers, Diane Hall, Jean DePew, Paulette Swank

CLAYTON MAGGERT

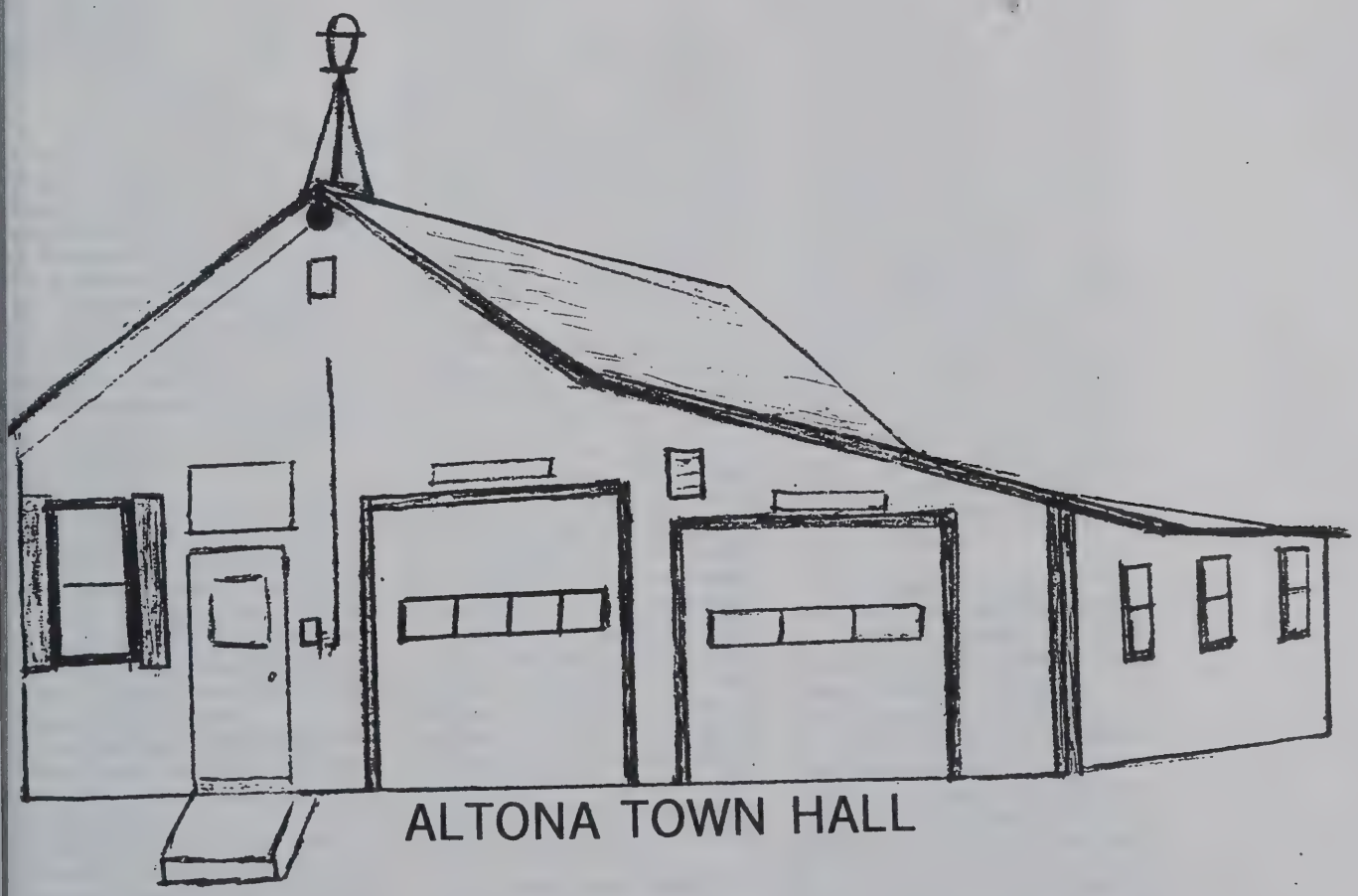
BEFORE AFTER

ALTONA METHODIST CHURCH RESTORATION

AUGUST 1951

STORIES of ALTONA

By Lois Cobler



ALTONA TOWN HALL

The history of Garrett is deeply rooted in that of Alton's, our neighboring town of 275 persons to the west of us. Thus, today's column will attempt to reveal little known facts about our heritage.

While working with my research materials, I found a card given to me when I visited the historic home of Thomas A. Edison where he was born in Milan, Ohio, in 1847. It is appropriate for this column. The author is unknown. The following lines I have copied from the card:

LITTLE TOWN

I like to live in a little town,
where the trees meet across
the street,
Where you wave your hand and
say, "Hello" to everyone you
meet.
I like to stand outside the hard-
ware store
And listen to the friendly gossip
of the folks that live next
door.
For life is interwoven with the
friends we learn to know,
And we hear their joys and
sorrows as we daily come and
go.
So I like to live in a little town, I
care no more to roam,
For every house in a little town
is more than a house—
It's HOME.

Author unknown.

My experiences in Altona began a long time before I taught school in their two-room schoolhouse from 1918 to 1922.

Because my goal in life was to be a teacher, I decided to earn enough money to pay my tuition at Tri State Normal School in Angola. Charles Ross, an Altona resident, owned the C. Ross Meat Market which was located in the I.O.O.F. store building that burned down on Christmas night, 1972.

I graduated from Garrett High School on the 7th day of May, 1917. M. D. Renkenberger was Supt. of Schools and George Carroll, Principal. Dr. John D. Thomson, D. B. Van Fleit, and Carl H. Heinzerling were members of the School board who signed my diploma.

As soon as I graduated, Mr. Ross took me into the store where I worked until the summer of 1918.

In those days, all that a teacher needed was a high school education and at least twelve weeks' Normal School training, to teach in the elementary grades.

World War I had taken all of the boys and the schools lacked teachers.

My aunt, Mrs. A. F. Hathaway, lived at 909 West Quincy street, next door to the Sam Houser family. He was a Trustees' Board. I had known them all of my life since I spent a great deal of time visting my relatives who had one daughter, Aleda, just my age.

When the time came to supply the Altona School with teachers, Mr. Houser had no teacher for the first four grades.

My aunt said to him, "Why don't you hire Lois Cobler?"

My license issued from the DeKalb County School Superintendent, Mr. Green, was all I needed. And so it was that for three years I taught grades 1,2,3 and 4 with Anne Bevier who was the teacher in the upper grades, 5,6,7 and 8.

One of the concerns of Mr. Houser was that of my ability to discipline well. There were children in the lower grades who had just arrived from Alabama. Being black, they had had no opportunity to attend school. Some were larger than I was. But with Miss Bevier's suggestions we managed to teach them. They had fine parents and not only were they employed in the B&O shops, but were janitors in the City Hall, bank, and hired as maids in some of the Garrett homes.

The story of Altona schools, according to Mary Comesky, who lives at 1304 West Quincy, stated that there was a wooden building on a site just east of the present abandonded school building now owned by Bill Andrews who converted it into apartments. I never saw that building since it is assumed it burned down being so near the railroad.

However, the school trustees acquired an acre of land on Co. Rd. 48 owned by Mr. Downend. On Jan. 25, 1877, the sum of $150 was paid to the owner.

J. W. Garvey had been building the B&O car shop, roundhouse and machine shop. He was hired to erect the school on the Downend lot, consisting of one room for all eight grades.

In 1901, as the need arose for a larger building, L. C. Wells, a Garrett contractor, and Mr. Allman, brick layer, made an addition to the north end of the building at a cost of $2,243, where my four grades were taught, from Sept. 1918 to May, 1922. A belfry had the school bell.

The room had benches in front. Each class took its place when the children recited. While one grade was on the benches, the others were expected to study, or work on "busy" work which was thought up by the teacher.

Fortunately for me, I had a very fine group of children who helped each other. Among them 110 North Union.

Both of Howard's parents had been school teachers in a town called Rob Roy. Mr. Watts later became a U.S. mail clerk on the B&O and was a valuable advisor to the Altona schools.

Howard was on of my "helpers." He was anxious to help the children learn to read, and many times became their "teacher" while I was at work with the various classes.

In writing this column, Howard offerd much of my material and I am indebted to him for the rich research he gave me, as well as his personal experiences in Altona.

He recalled that as a small boy he went to Feagler's and Kooken's grocery stores, one on the corner of Baker and Quincy, the other across the street. It was not the fact of their existence that came back with considerable force but it was recalling the way the merchandise was handled. "Today we might categorize the stores as 'full service' groceries," Howard stated.

"So much of what we now find in cans, plastic or boxes was then handled in bulk. Butter, peanut butter, and lard were picked up with a paddle and slapped into a cardboard tray. Sugar, crackers and cookies pulled from large bins, sacked and weighed as one bought them (pretty sticky and stale during the humid summer). A dozen eggs placed in a paper sack was something else, while attempting to get them home without too much breakage was a real challenge to a small boy. Bulk foods, oiled floors, open twists of tabacco, hanging bananas, somewhat spoiled, sawdust at the meat counter, these and other things made up an aroma unlike anything else;—an aroma that was unmistakably that of a grocery store.

Howard said, "there is much, too, that I can remember about the physical layout of our school, as well as smells of that Altona school." "Some," he said, "were not as important as the ones dealing with interpersonal relationships. To a student the teacher seems very remote, especially to a first or second grader. As the years come and go that feeling of remoteness disappears until there comes a realization that student and teacher shared a common purpose, were in a sense, part of the same frame." There also comes somewhere along the way, some understanding of the influence that school teachers have as an individual on each one's total life."

Those above quotes were from Howard soon after I had written the column relating to Altona. (It is a testimonial to cherish.)

That school building became the possession of Bill Andrews when the Garrett-Keyser-Butler corporation closed the doors to the school in 1956 because of consolidation. Today the building has been converted to apartments.

Thus, the bell to that schoolhouse is cherished by one who went to that school, and all grocery stores are just a memory.

With apologies to Paul Harvey, it will be necessary to write another column about Altona, which I will call, "THE REST OF THE STORY TO JANUARY 1, 1984."

I shall tell about the "Worst Crossing Wreck Between the Interurban and an Automobile in Altona"; "The Churngold Man"; "Celebrations Which Took Place," "Altona's Government and Fire Dept." "Noted personalities who made the news"; "Altona's improvements since its beginnings": and more.

Having written several columns about Altona, I am reminded of the story of a Texan sitting on an oil field. He stated, "it is hard to know where to dig in first."

Many stories developed from the rich heritage of those now living in Altona from which I gained information. Scrapbooks compiled by families were given to me containing Altona news beginning at the turn of the century. Little known facts came to light, including the Jan. 2, 1929 B&O freight train wreck at Auburn Jct.

On Wednesday night, Jan. 2, 1929, three Altona men were killed and a fourth was seriously injured when the auto in which they were riding was struck by a B&O freight train at the crossing in Auburn Junction.

Richard Hall, aged 19, Clifford Miller, aged 25, Clayton Watier, 21, and Samuel Leeson, 20, were returning from work at the E. L. Cord Automobile Factory in Auburn, where they had worked until 9 o'clock.

The weather was similar to what we have been experiencing. Railroad men expressed the opinion that the driver of the car did not see the east bound freight train with Will Clady and Ralph Miller in the cab of the engine. Mr. Clady reported that he had seen the approaching car and blew his whistle.

A west bound freight had just gone by and the men were not aware of the east bound freight train until almost upon the crossing, and then, while applying the car's brakes in a vain effort to stop, the car slipped on the ice-covered road and slid on the tracks directly in front of the train. Marks of the tires on the road indicated this. There were not witnesses. Before the accident, the car containing the four men was seen to stop while the westbound freight passsed.

All of the men suffered fractured skulls and their bodies were badly mangled. Mr. Leeson survived and he was taken to the Sanders Hospital, Auburn, where he spent many months recovering. Hall and Miller were instantly killed and Watier died on the way to the hospital.

The car rolled over and over, 450 feet from the station. Struck squarely by the huge engine, the light car was hurdled down the tracks, being tossed over and over, and crushed on the point of the pilot.

Hall was thrown out of the demolished machine and fell between the tracks. Miller was found under the engine. Watier was under the crushed car. Leeson was found on the tracks nearby.

Needless to say, doctors, ambulances and coroners were rushed to the scene. Hundreds of persons hurried to Auburn.

All men had attended Garrett High School and young Miller had played on the GHS baseball team. He won a wide reputation as a southpaw pitcher.

The Fort Wayne newspapers carried the story with large headlines the next day after the accident.

W. S. Zolman and family came to Altona from Auburn in the early 1900's where his father, Charles, had been a plumber for twenty-five years. Young "Bill" learned his father's craft. He established a reputation as an excellent plumber which was during the time Garrett's City Council had published rules and regulations for the control of the water works system. With J. O. Landes the only Garrett plumber at that time, Mr. Zolman built his shop in the downtown area.

In those days frozen pipes in winter were common. In spite of the fact that the rules stated "during cold weather shut the water off at night at the stop and waste cock and drain all pipes" the local plumber had a busy time thawing pipes.

In 1917, the Garrett Council passed an ordinance stating that all outdoor toilets should be banned. Bathrooms were installed and homes became equipped with modern facilities.

Celebrations of all kinds were celebrated in Altona. The schoolhouse and church facilities were used for these events.

One of the earliest recorded social affairs of Altona took place on July 7, 1910. It marked the inauguration of a fire truck, with Garrett joining in the celebration.

Music was provided by the Garrett band. A quartet consisting of Harry Brown, Dr. C. Steward, C. E. Reyher and J. D. Brinkerhoff sang. A queen contest was sponsored by Dr. Rodebaugh.

He gave a fifty pound cake to be sold for a penny a piece, which allowed persons to vote for their favorite candidate. Japanese lanterns were strung all over for lighting. Lawyer Howard Mountz gave the main address.

As time went on, box socials, indoor fairs, a minstrel show and benefit shows were money-making projects to provide funds for the fire department.

The fire barn became the Town Hall. It was not until the fire department was organized in 1914 that the interest in community fire protection really took on ways and means to improve their services to the community. A fire whistle alerts the men to a fire. New fire equipment was purchased. Regular meetings take place twice a month. A woman's auxiliary helps out in emergencies and when fund-raising events and socials take place.

In 1943 at the close of the World War, Altona gave recognition to the 43 young men whose names appeared on the Honor Roll. The DeParis and Sobasky families had a hand in many of Altona's projects.

The women of Altona complained of being afraid of snakes in the swamps surrounding the town. At one time wild animals were seen, including a black bear killed by Earl Tooman's dog in 1957.

In 1957 the sanitary sewer was installed with a maximum depth of 17 feet.

It is reported that Altona has an abundance of drinking water. Only when a fire needs extra water supply does Altona have to call for help from Garrett's supply.

Each property owner has a septic tank.

When the effort came to drain the excessive amount of water in the backyards of the citizen, the first efforts seemed to fail. Even during summer months, water stood in the low places.

A survey connected with the drainage project found 103 homes, 76 families and 78 households. Earth Construction Company was contracted to do the job.

Dave Wolfe wanted to give up. But Howard Watts decided to find out why they were turned down the first time. Finally a grant of $385,000 was used to build a drainage system in 1979 covering 10,300 feet. Much credit should be given Howard Watts, who never gave up on the project.

When the blizzards of 1978 struck, Altona had no street-cleaning department. But with self-help and community spirit, the citizens organized their own clean-up crews.

No contractors were called in to help in the removal. When the blizzard began on Wednesday with a 17-inch snowfall, the Altona task seemed impossible. Snow drifts, piled as high as roof tops, impeded the effort.

The approximate seven miles of Altona's streets were cleared so traffic could move four days later.

Residents who owned snow removal equipment donated them. Neighbors pooled their efforts to obtain food donations and the fire department auxiliary kept hot meals available for the workers who worked round the clock.

This was just another story of a community who cared for each other.

Last October I received a telephone call from Kenneth Cutler, Jr., asking me to judge Altona's Halloween celebration on Saturday night in their Town Hall. How could I say "No" to a community that gave me my first teaching job and many of these families are even today involved in the town affairs.

I asked Kenneth Cutler, Jr. what inspired this event. He said, "I grew up in Altona when the church was the center of the social events. No longer is that available. The school is part of the Garrett-Keyser-Butler system. Four years ago, I decided to do something about it." He canvassed every family in Altona for funds to finance the event. After the pledges were taken to see whether such a party could be financed, he was assurred it was possible. Then he made at trip back to the homes and collected the money. Since that time, four years later, the funds increase yearly.

Hundreds of "hot dogs" were purchased with buns and when they were consummed, Kenny went to town and bought more. The ladies baked cookies and cakes. Beverages of soft drinks, and coffee were provided. Prizes for the costume judging contest were also bought from the Garrett merchants, consisting of gift certificates to be used in Garrett. The amounts ranged from the smallest to fifteen dollars, which went to the champion appleeater. The evening ended with a hay ride.

I was completely overwhelmed with the event. I have yet to observe a town in which love and concern for the children can top this. Persons from the cradle to one nearing the century mark were there. The families who have ever been residents of Altona are eligible for the party. No public announcement ever gets out since the affair is a close-knit group.

Altona's present trustees are: Jim Owens, president; Marvin Hall, trustee; Rose Swank, Sec.-Treas.; and K. Cutler Jr., board member. They were all there with many more town folk engineering the party.

Seventy years ago on Feb. 12, 1914, Mayor J. A. Clevenger, Will Franks and Edward Kelham were appointed to a committee for the purpose of annexing Altona to Garrett.

The subject pertaining to this annexation had been discussed for a long time. With the growth of population in Altona and the need for improvements, the time was right for this to take place.

There were some citizens, however, that opposed the merger. Consequently, it was left to Garrett to prepare an ordinance that would take in several additions south, east and north. The first vote was negative. Several months later, the decision to annex became a reality, which displeased a few families in Altona. They threatened to file a remonstrance.

Certain farmers, affected by annexation did not want a higher tax rate that would pay for the luxuries of urban development such as alleys, paved streets, sidewalks and street lights.

Special Judge Bratton of Angola in June, 1915, handed down a decision which was final. It read, "certain unplatted lands...should not be annexed to the city of Garrett as provided by the ordinance passed by Mayor Clevenger."

There were 59 remonstrators in Altona, but by October, 49 names were withdrawn. The town finally was annexed.

Four months later, in January, because of a misunderstanding about representation on the Garrett Council, the matter went again to the courts. In March, 1916, Judge Link of DeKalb Co. Circuit Court, stopped the annexation. The entire idea of Altona ever becoming a part of Garrett was then laid to rest.

Many Altona persons have brought fame to the town. In previous columns, including April 5, 8 and 12, 1982, I have written about the Leeson family, including Joseph, 1822 Maple Lane, his father, Joe, famous for his part in rounding up Al Capone and Fred Leeson, a former Indiana State Trooper who is retired and now owns his Leeson Insurance Co. in Ligonier.

Don Kooken, a native of Altona was married to Thelma Leeson, Joseph Leeson's aunt. Both Don Kooken and Joe Leeson started out together enforcing Federal laws throughout the U.S. In my story of Don Kooken and Joe Leeson as members of the "Secret Six," I told how their capture of the Al Capone gang took place and Capone was sent to prison. Don's influence is still being felt today in the Police Academy, the first State Police Training School. His years as an instructor in Indiana University was preserved for posterity as it was written in Indiana's Alumni Magazine, v. 21, #9 and the Indiana Biography Series, Vol. 53, both publications housed in the State Library Archives.

Altona's famous baseball team of the first decade was made up of Geo. Baker, Jay Hall, Dore Houser, Jess Ross, Tom Houser, Vern Allman, Harry Maggert, John Watier, Bill Ray and Newton DePew. Maggert and Houser played on the Garrett team as well as the B&O Championship team which we shall tell about in another column.

Frances Maggert, widow of Forrest Maggert, recalls stories of her father, John C. Reed, who served in the Civil War. He was mustered in March 27, 1864, in the Twenty-first Infantry, Company A., and mustered out Jan. 13, 1866. He witnessed the assassination of Pres. Abraham Lincoln, April 14, 1865, in the Ford theatre, Washington, D.C. John C. Reed is one of the Civil War veterans whose grave is decorated each Memorial Day, in Cedar Chapel Cemetery.

Forrest Maggert and Frances Reed were married in 1930. They became parents of eleven children. Ralph (known as "Sport") resides with his mother. He is employed at Electric Motors.

Before their marriage, Forrest Maggert worked for the E. L. Cord Automobile Co. in Auburn. At the time of his retirement, he was employed by the B&O in the Maintenance of Way Dept.

Rearing eleven children was not easy, especially for the mother who wanted her children to receive an education, first in Altona grades then on to Garrett High. During depression years, she worked in Garrett at the Doc Owens Restaurant for a wage of $8.50 per week. The children weeded onions west of Altona for ten cents a row, as did many school children not only from Altona, but Garrett.

Arthur and Mary Comesky moved to Altona in 1930. She was the daughter of the well known Geo. Baker family. Her present home is the same as when she and Arthur went to housekeeping. He was well-known for his participation in the area baseball teams. Mary is the oldest Altona resident.

The Charles Ross family was engaged in the butchering business as well as owning a long-established Ross & Son Meat Market, later known as Ross and Wagner.

His hobby was his giving to charity and church related affairs, and watching the great fights in the area as well as at Madison Square Garden, N.Y., where he had as traveling companion Harry Brown, president of the Garrett State Bank.

He never joined a civic club. He stated that he would give of his means to help those in trouble or need. On one occasion, as a patient at the old Sacred Heart Hospital, he noticed a crack in the plastered wall. He spoke to one of the nuns about it and suggested that it should be repaired, but no money was available to pay to have it done. The conversation did not end there. He asked his wife to bring a sizable check to give to the hospital for the necessary repairs.

As long as the Altona church was in existence, he saw to it that coal heated the building and expenses of the church were met by Mr. Ross's generosity, which few people knew. He had compassion for the needy of Garrett and many families in Garrett were able to live during the years of hardship brought about by railroad strikes or during the depression.

His daughter was engaged in the profession of managing her own beauty salon for many years in Garrett, and her daughter follows her mother in that same profession.

Sally Ross relates the story of the charitable acts of Chas. Ross. During the Depression years and times of B&O strikes, he was known to give the ends of bacon slabs for bean dishes, as well as other cuts of meat for soup. He could not stand to see anyone suffering if he could help.

During the Mexican War, his brother, Jess Ross enlisted June 22, 1916. While stationed at the military camp in Hattiesburg, Miss., he became acquainted with Sally Nelson, whose home was in that city. They were married after the war in 1918.

Four sons were born and Sally is very proud of their accomplishments. Harold graduated from Indiana University in the School of Music and went on to New York University for business education. Professionally Harold is a stock broker and has the distinction of being a member of the Board of Trustees for Wooster College, Wooster, O., for ten years. Harold married a former Garrett resident, Sue Lane. Their three children, Betsy, Bill and Jim are receiving a college education. Their home is in Lafayette, Calif.

When the Ross boys were in GHS they were active in the Track teams. Nelson's 440 track record has stood for many years. He graduated from Purdue University and received his Master's Degree at the University of Pittsburgh. He is an electrical engineer and is engaged in the U.S. Space program. He is married to the former Ruth Custer, an ordained minister and their home is in Maryland. Their son, Steve lives in Fort Wayne and the twins, Craig and David, and Carol live in Maryland.

Robert pursued a business education in the International Business College, Fort Wayne. He is remembered also as a pianist.

In high school he was also known for his music ability. He organized a band made up of high school students who were: Chas. Carlin, vocalist, and John Wagner, George Pond, Vincent Zecca and Robert Gallatin. Bob has a Real Estate and Antique business in his home town. The son, David, is an architect in Los Angeles and their eldest daughter lives in Brussels, Belgium. The two youngest are at the California home.

Billy Ross is deceased, He died at the age of twenty as a victim of muscular distrophy.

More on Altona will be concluded in my next column.

©Lois B. Cobler, 1984

The story of Altona's government began in 1906. Incorporation took place in June, and the first elections were held on June 15, with 199 votes cast. Theodore Houser, S. O. Whitford and John C. Smith were elected councilmen, with Cary DePew, clerk, and Jonas Veazey, treasurer. All but DePew were Democrats.

Earlier in the year, on Feb. 22, 1906, a notice appeared stating that the T & C I Railway Co., known as the Interurban would begin running cars between Auburn and Garrett on regular schedule time. Altona residents had no trouble using that facility to Auburn, the County Seat.

Since promoters of the Interurban thought the electric railway was the transportation of the future, money from investors poured millions into building track and equipment.

Ironically; Henry Ford was trying to get investors to raise $100,000 to build a Ford automobile factory. As history relates, the Interurban investors "Lost their shirts" and the automobile investors wound up becoming multi-millionaires. Only $28,000 was raised for the Ford factory.

The cheap fares by Interurban attracted the riders. Cars left Garrett at the corner of King and Cowen at 7 a.m. and every hour thereafter up to and including 11 p.m. The fare from Auburn to Garrett, one way was fifteen cents, and round trip 25 cents. To Auburn Jct. fare was ten cents, one way, Auburn to Auburn Jct. was five cents.

Altona's strategic location on the railway was a boon to the town. Freight cars handled small parcels of merchandise which could be purchased from wholesalers in Fort Wayne. The newly installed telephone service made it possible to obtain emergency orders in hours.

Stopping in Altona was no problem after the line extended all the way to Kendallville.

The motorman and conductor took pride in the fact that an accurate time schedule was kept so well that the residents stated, "We could set our clocks by their accurate arrivals and departures."

Huntertown was one of the stops between Fort Wayne and Garrett. The stops averaged about one per mile. This made possible a maximum speed of 50 miles per hour.

As time progressed in the electric car business, Indiana Service went all out to improve service and safety, and the number of accidents were cut down because of crossing safety regulations.

Fort Wayne's freight continued to grow and the speedy and economical cost of freight, together with the use of trucks and devices for handling goods and storing freight, made the use of electric cars available to every farmer along the route.

The motorman on each car became aware of a dangerous intersection in the towns. His warning signals however, went without a sense of safety or danger ahead to some persons.

Eye-witnesses tell the worst accident ever to take place at an Altona crossing.

In July, 1921, just before dusk, five boys from Huntertown had the idea that it would be fun to race the Interurban from Huntertown to Garrett. They jumped into an old automobile which had no top. The race began. The Interurban made its regular stop at the depot in Garrett and had not gained a fast speed when it reached Baker street and Co. Rd. #7 in Altona. It was estimated the speed of the boys car was 40 miles per hour and the Interurban, ten.

Not heeding the motorman's warning bell and horn, the two cars met at the crossing. The cow-catcher on the electric car was torn from it and the rails became a twisted mess.

When the dust cleared, the spectators realized what had happened. The sight was bloody and gruesome.

The Ed Draime family and Mary Comesky were the first on the scene since their homes were at that point. Howard Watts stated that he looked out the window when the crash took place, and what he saw was unbelievable. Bodies of dead and dying were stretched out in his front yard. Undertaker Hinklin, whose mortuary was back of what is now the City Hall, was called to the scene of the accident. One body was decapitated. No local boys, as far as anyone knows, were among the group.

Within minutes, the crossing was a bedlam of onlookers. It was beyond belief as to how a small car and the railway could have done so much damage.

The question of the electric railway came to light just a few years before this had happened, concerning the use of the highway for horses versus the railway cars. Because roads were narrow and with more automobile traffic, it was said that automobiles should have priority. However, they must stop for a team of horses, and in case the driver of the animals could not control the animal, provision should be made to help him. In Dec. 1902 the electric railway was granted a franchise to construct and maintain in a single track the full length of King street.

Eventually, the railway gave way to the bus, known as the Shortway Bus Co. It ran on a fairly good schedule at first, and stopped to pick up passengers at the corner of King and Randolph, or wherever passengers wished to board the bus. Later the Garrett Hotel became the depot.

Much of Altona's history is linked to transporation, including the B&O. Garrett became an unloading spot for the stock cars being transported from the West to the East markets. Nebraska cattle, sheep and horses were taken off the stock cars and serviced here.

Directly behind the Sally Ross home at 910 Quincy, the railroad had a spur which switched off the cars.

Mr. Isaiah Runion, an employed railroader, lived just beyond the bridge. It did not matter whether it was day or night, winter or summer, Mr. Runion's job was to take care of those animals as they came from the loading and unloading docks.

Just beyond this point were long lines of stock cars waiting to be loaded and serviced. Each stock car had to be cleaned by hand.

Mrs. Runion (Josephine) aided her husband in this part of his job. Their daughter, Suzanne, was just an infant when the Runions took on this duty. At times, it was recalled, that at two in the morning the Runions were notified that the stock cars were unloading. They bundled up Suzanne and away they went.

Today the Runions are retired and spend winters in the South. Suzanne married David Ober, son of Jesse and Olive Ober. The J. E. Ober Elementary School was named in Jesse Ober's honor. He was Principal of the old Central Bldg. and assigned to teach the sixth graders, whom he taught for seven years, and became Principal in Dec., 1935. He had graduated from GHS in 1922. David graduated from GHS in 1958 and received his PH.D at Purdue. They live near Muncie, where David is Professor of Physics at Ball State University.

Many happenings in Altona involved other wrecks and accidents.

On Jan. 2, 1929, three Altona young men including Clifford Bushong, Richard Hall and Clayton Watier, were killed at Auburn Jct. when their car was struck by a B&O freight train. Sam Leeson, a passenger in the car, was seriously injured, but did recover. The young men were on their way home from work, and their car skidded onto the tracks in front of an east bound freight. W.R. Clady was engineer and J. Ralph Miller conductor.

It was in that year that the State of Indiana announced that effective July 1, all automobile drivers should be licensed. The applicants were required to complete an application and to swear they could read and write English and interpret road signs.

Only those who had been convicted of a felony and those physically handicapped were required to take a driving test. All others stated whether or not they could drive, whether they could or not.

Good things were happening to Altona in the way of improvements. In 1916 gas lines were connected to Altona and the following year electricity from Garrett Utilities came to Altona.

I was hired to teach the primary grades in their school. However, the only modern convenience we had was a gas two-burner hot plate. I was expected to teach Home Economics to the girls in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8, even though I was hired as a primary teacher. Fortunately, Anna Bevier, upper grades teacher, traded classes with me. She taught agriculture to the upper grade boys while I took her girls for cooking and sewing. My only training for that position was what was taught to me by Florence Dobbrick in Home Economics during my senior high school year. Many of my readers recall such foods as "Egg ala Goldenrod" and white sauce. At least I could teach those simple foods.

In my column, dated Jan. 3, I wrote mostly about the Altona school. Today, we shall take a close look at those persons who were devoted to their community and became known for their contributions to society in general.

Garrett's history is interwoven with Altona's even today. as I recount some of their recent accomplishments.

It is ironic that Mary Ellen Hathaway Mead, aunt of A.F. Hathaway (my uncle) became Garrett's fourth postmaster.

When Mary Ellen's father died, he asked the nephews to see to it that she would always be provided a home. Thus, Alton Hathaway provided an apartment in the Hathaway home at 909 West Quincy, where she was living when the need arose in Garrett for a postmaster. The history of the family noted that she was very ambitious and capable to do most any kind of work. Today Blake Keen, grandson, lives there.

We recall that at the turn of the century there was no rural delivery. Altona provided mail service to Garrett until April 21, 1875. Following our first postmasters, W. A. Pratt, Henry Clark and A. H. Phillips, Mary Ellen was chosen to become the postmistress where she served four years. Thus, she is the first woman to serve in a government position in the area.

Martha Dick Bardsley, whose residence was at the corner of Bridge and Quincy streets in Altona, graduated from Garrett High School in 1891, and was a teacher in the old Central school building at the corner of Lee and Houston. I was her pupil in the second grade, which she taught for forty years. In 1937 she ended a career of 47 years in the public schools, seven of which were in Altona, and the others in Garrett. She was small in stature, but carried a tone in her voice when we needed to be disciplined that no one dared question. The community knew her as "Mattie Dick." W. S. Painter was school superintendent, and Jesse Ober, elementary school principal.

Another Altona native who taught in the Garrett school system was Pearl Denison, a GHS graduate of 1911. Pearl was the daughter of the famous "Ice Man" of Altona whose story I wrote in my column dated March 22, 1982.

Pearl was a graduate of Columbia University and came back to Garrett where she taught the primary grades for many years.

Leaders in Altona's community were the Cady family. He carried on a successful lumber business, and Mrs. Cady belonged to a group of women called the Loyal Legion. The Cady house is credited with the fact that it was the first one built in Altona.

As time went on, the streets were named as follows: Union, Quincy, Baker, Bridge, Oak, Elm, Frank, Mill, Railroad, James, Harris and Andrews Lane. The old map of Altona shows the street "Harris' which is in reality King street.

Mary Comesky has the distinction of having lived in Altona longer than any other citizen of the community today. She has been an eye-witness to the growth and changes of the community.

The town grew rapidly as the B&O railroad brought people here to work on the railroad. I like to think of Altona as a microcosm of the world. Today's population of about 275 is not much larger than it always has been. But the names of the early families reveal the countries of the world from which they came to this pioneer community. Names such as DeParis from Italy; Mankowski and Sobraski, Poland; Mrs. G. Maurer, a native of Switzerland; Mr. Maurer her husband, Germany; and others from Ireland, Austria, Canada and Rumania.

I wonder how many of my readers know about "CHURNGOLD." Frank Bechtol, who lived at the west edge of Garrett, became the distributor of the product. Today we know that as oleo or margarine. He took orders and made home deliveries. The least amount one could buy at a time was a five-pound package. Churngold was white. Our mother allowed the churngold to get soft, and then opened the capsule containing a yellow coloring which she mixed into the margarine.

Advertising Churngold was done in one instance by the use of a colored postcard showing a housewife at her telephone talking to a grocer. Grocery stores did not handle that product. The card said, "Hello, Mr. Grocer, I said, Churngold. Nothing else will do. I must have Churngold." Some children created a taste for that product and grew up without ever tasting butter.

I taught the daughter of the Bechtol family, Catherine Bechtol Mayton, who lives in Crewe, W. Va. In a letter from her she wrote, "I grew up on the edge of Garrett in Altona, went to the Altona school and had you for a teacher in the first and second grades. I remember the shops and roundhouse, as well as several other buildings around there that are gone. Mother told of how she had to walk on a board walk on West King, as it was so swampy out that way. I am sure that you remember them, too....I wonder how many remember the old Altona School. The children now would think it was terrible, but we learned just as well then as in some of the more modern buildings, today."

Dean Bechtol was her brother. He graduated from GHS in 1914. I was a sophomore when he was a senior. All of the high school classes met and had their desks together in the assembly room. Dean Bechtol was considered the clown of the school. He directed school and community plays. After World War I, Dean returned to Garrett, became a postal clerk and reorganized the Boy Scout troop of the American Legion.

He became a charter member of the local Legion Post 178, and in 1943 he became Indiana Department Commander. For meritorious service, the Legion awarded him a Life Membership. The Boy Scout organization awarded him the Silver Beaver for his service to the Scouts.

He became a member of Garrett's Board of Education and while on that Board he worked under Supt. Painter as president, and then E. V. Minnear, as secretary.

In 1956, Dean won the Democratic nomination for 4th District Congressman. But in the landslide election of President Eisenhower, E. Ross Adair defeated Dean Bechtol.

The youngest soldier to enter World War I was Leo Madden from Altona. Leo enlisted in 1917 at the age of fifteen. The army shipped him off to France and the French government decorated him because of his military service.

The swampy, muddy conditon of Altona streets caused Mr. Gettle, Kooken and Feagler to build a small slab of cement in front of their stores and one which led into the Methodist church.

These sufficed until 1938 when the WPA was working under government programs during the depression years. Frank Van Ande, Geo. Muhn, and Ed. Draime influenced the men in charge to construct sidewalks all over Altona. Neal H. Dow was the Indiana State Safety Consultant for the project. In order that no one was injured, certain orders were to be obeyed including: "Lift with your legs" and "Save your back muscles."

As the pioneers of the early Methodist Protestant church began moving westward from Baltimore, they brought with them the love of the church of their choice. One and a half miles south of Altona there was what was called the Hopewell Methodist Protestant church. It is said that this was the second church of the county. Pastor Stackhosue was church preacher from 1891-93.

When Pastor E. Scott took over the pulpit, July 27, 1894, he wrote this date in the Kendallville Mitchell Strout Membership Book. When the membership transferred to the Altona church and Butler Center, the Hopewell church was moved to Altona, where it was rebuilt. The Butler Center church built a new brick building which closed its doors in 1962. These two churches were on the same "circuit" of the Kendallville churches. At Liberty Center, Wells Co., in Aug. 1898, Altona and Butler Center were detached from Kendallville, and Rehobeth was added to Butler Center and the three churches became the Altona Circuit.

When the Altona church on Feb. 26, 1907 suffered the loss of the building in a large fire, the people rose to the occasion and built a cement block structure. The pastor of the church at that time, P. W. Boxell, on May 10, 1907 made the first cement block, and the building was dedicated on May 31, 1908.

According to the writings of Dora Miller, no record of trustees was on record at the County Court House at the time of the fire. The church trustees for the parsonage in 1900, were Pastor Evans lived in it, were: John Maggert, Geo. Probst, Ben Hawvwe and G. A. Adams. Other names found who contributed to the ongoing of the building included Oliver and Chas. Weller, Frank Yarde, John Maggert, Ed Kelham, Newton DePew, John Barger and others.

At the annual conference in 1931, Altona was dropped from the other two churches in the conference. It became an independent church. Thirty seven pastors led the congregation in its history from 1894 to 1966. The last name was that of Don Klopfenstein and the first one was E. J. Scott, 1894 to 1896.

To be continued in next column.

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About seventy years ago a man by the name of Robert Showers took up a west part of Altona. Several other homesteaders arrived shortly after, Harris Rogers buying the land where the southeast part of town is and men named Rich and Clay taking what is now the northeast part of town. Showers sold his land to James Downend and the latter laid out Downend's addition, still named that. Rogers laid out an addition on his land which bears his name and Rich and Cady laid out the part of the town called Rich and Cady addition. Thomas Gard was also one of the earliest homesteaders.

Work at the lumber industry, which was established by Rich and Cady just north of the present overhead bridge in Altona, was the only means of livelihood except that of farming. As the territory was thickly wooded and there was a ready market for lumber, activities about the sawmill, began to bustle and additional workers began coming in. The lumber business lent it self to the work of clearing the land and this was the main reason it was started. Many of the present houses in Altona were built at that time, about sixty-five years ago, from lumber from this sawmill. All of the houses which are still standing and being used.

First School House

The community continued to grow and prosper. Roads were built, though they were impassable for about six months of the year. A frame school building was constructed on the knob or high place about a half block east of the present school building. One of the first teachers was Jeff Saxon of Auburn. The present building was constructed in 1877, but there have been additions to it since that time. The Altona school has always been under township supervision with the exception of the years immediately following incorporation of the town, from 1906 to 1910, when a school fund was provided and the school was run by the town. The teachers at the present time are Geo. Fee and Miss Violet Hall.

Henry and Abe Gettel were among the first settlers of Altona and they operated the first store. They constructed a store building near the sawmill and went into business. Altona had a post office in the early days in the Gettel store with one of the Gettles as postmaster. There was a post office in the town until 1911, most of the time in the Kooken store. After it was discontinued Altona people had to come to Garrett for their mail for several years before the rural route included Altona. The Kooken store which housed the post office is the building just west across the road from the present Rolla E. Kooken store. The other building was constructed in 1888 by the elder Kooken, John H., who died a few years ago, and it is still used as a storeroom and for other purposes.

With the coming of the railroad the settlers in Altona passed up a chance to make a city out of their community. When the construction of the railroad from Chicago Junction to Chicago was nearly completed by 1874, the officials sought a suitable division point. At first it was intended to locate the division point four miles east of Albion, but farmers thought they saw an opportunity to make a nice profit on their lands and put prohibitive prices on it. The high ground at the west end of Altona was the next site contemplated, but here also the farmers boosted the price of their lands, so Washington Cowen, the agent, went to the east side of the swamp which bound Altona on the east and bought land from the farmers without informing them of his reason. Construction began and the town of Garrett sprang up almost over night.

In 1876, after the surrounding territory was cleared of the best timber, the sawmill operated in Altona by Rich and Cady was moved to a site near Waterloo.

Trestle Connects Towns

Soon after trains started running through the town the numerous sparks from the engines made the

THE ALTONA POST OFFICE

In 1871, just about the biggest event of the winter was when a few days before Christmas, the whole family bundled into the bobsled for the ride to the Altona Post Office. It was housed in the H. E. Gettle general store. The family had spent endless nights pouring over the mail order catalog in search of special Christmas gifts. This trip to the Altona general store would give them the opportunity not only to buy their groceries, but also to find out whether the mail had arrived.

The B & O railroad laborers building the trestle, tracks and overhead bridge, got their mail at that post office, as did everyone in the area.

By Lois B. Cobler

The Altona Post Office was located on the southwest corner of West Quincy & Baker Streets.

ALTONA's

ALTONS'S HISTORY IMPORTANT TO GARRETT

Although Altona has been in existence longer than Garrett, it was not until June 1906 that it was incorporated as a town, thirty years after the first settlers moved into the territory which is now Altona.

During its first years, Altona, which, it is said, was named for a town in Germany which was the home of one of the early settlers, grew rapidly as did many a pioneer town, but after its only industry, the lumber business, went out of existence and now new industries were added, the town grew much more slowly and for the last thirty years there has been very little change in the buildings and the make-up of the town in general.

Gettel brothers fearful of fire at their store beside the track, and Henry Gettel built and operated a store in the building now occupied by the Rolla E. Kooken store and Abe Gettel moved to Butler Center, where he engaged in the lumber business.

Many people came to work for the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and many settled in Altona. A trestle had been constructed over the swamp and lake between Altona and Garrett and during the rainy reason for many years the only direct route between the two towns was over this trestle. There were other passable routes, more or less trails, one coming into Garrett from the south and one from the north.

Altona has a volunteer fire department, which became a member of the Indiana Firemen's Association in January of 1935. There was unorganized fire protection for many years before the fire department was organized in 1914; it had a chemical apparatus for fire protection for many years. In 1919 the first truck was purchased and in 1922 a new truck was bought and is till in use. At the present time the town board is contemplating the purchase of a new modern truck and the installation of an electric fire alarm system. J. C. Smith was the first fire chief, holding that position until 1921. Since then Jay Hall had been fire chief continuously. Other members of the department are D. J. Houser, John Watier, Louis Sobasky, Phil Anderson, Mike Mankowski, Frank Draime, Frank Leeson, Don Leeson and Frank Smith. The fire department's headquarters is at the town hall.

Present officer of the Altona town board are Rolla E. Kooken, chairman; Kenneth Strock and Josh Baker, trustees; and Mrs. Gertrude Feagler, clerk-treasurer. This board took office January 1, having been elected last fall. The retiring board, which was the first to hold office for six years was composed of Mrs. Will Bradsley, chairman; Philmor Anderson and Frank Smith, trustees; and Mrs. Mabel Watts, clerk-treasurer. Mrs. Bardsley had been appointed in August of 1932 because of the death of Clarence DePew, and Mrs. Watts was appointed at the same time to take the place of Albert Harwood, who died the same summer. Mr. Anderson had been appointed to fill the place of Chas. Vananda, who retired in August of 1934 and who later died.

J. C. Smith had been treasurer of Altona for eighteen years before his death in April of 1934, and at that time the offices of clerk and treasurer were combined.

List of Town Officers

Officers of the town since its incorporation are: town board, 1906-1910—Chairman, S. O. Whitford; trustees, D. T. Houser, J. C. Smith; treasurer, Jonas Veazey; clerk, John Watier.

1910-14—Chairman, Frank Vananda; trustees, Ed Draime, George Monn; treasurer Sam Houser; clerk, John Watier.

1914-18—Chairman, John Watier; (1916), George Davis; treasurer, Newton DePew (Nov. 1916), J. C. Smith; clerk, Levi Shults (March, 1914) A. W. Harwood.

1918-1922—Chairman, D. T. Houser (Aug., 1919), Grover Feagler (Dec. 1919), John Watier; trustees, Frank Adams, John Roberts (died Jan. 1920), Will Watts (Died Dec. 1932); treasurer, J. C. Smith; clerk, A. W. Harwood.

1922-26—Chairman, Louis Sonbasky; trustees, Warren Stiles, Josh Baker, Jr., D. T. Houser, Martin Rommel; treasurer, J. C. Smith; clerk, A. W. Harwood

. 1926-30—Chairman, Louis Sobasky (June 1929), Chas. Vananda; trustees, Martin Rommel, Robert

Ross; treasurer, J. C. Smith; clerk, A. W. Harwood.

Garrett tried to annex the town of Altona and the additions joining Garrett on the north in 1915, but the attempt failed. The case was fought in the courts, not so much by the town of Altona as by John F. Mitchell, a farmer and locomotive engineer living at the north edge of Garrett. In 1916 gas lines were extended to Altona by the Northern Indiana Fuel & Light company and in 1917 electric street lights were installed in Altona, the power coming from the Garrett municipal plant. Electric lights were also made available at this time to homes. About ten years ago the main road was paved through Altona.

The town hall was constructed from a residence during the regime of the first town board, and here all town meetings and board meetings are held. It also houses the fire department truck and equipment.

Outside of the ways mentioned Altona has changed little in the last thirty years. The population is listed at 343, and practically all of the workers are employed outside of the town, with the exception of those who farm.

ALTONA M. P. CHURCH

The Methodist Protestant church in Altona started with a small congregation in 1894. Fire destroyed the frame church in 1907 and plans were immediately laid for the erection of a new edifice. Dedication services were held in 1908 for the lovely new building. The cost of $5,000 had been liquidated by the date of the opening.

The Rev. P. W. Boxell was minister at that time and was an important factor in raising the necessary funds. Hazel Maggert, May DePew, Mrs. Lottie Fretz and Fred Darling all sang at the dedication services. Some of the subscribers to the erection funds were: John Maggert, H. E. Gettel, Ella DePew, Charles Weller, Frank Yarde, Benjamin Maggert, Edward Kelham, G. A. Adam, J. S. Veazey, A. H. McCormick, Frank Vananda, P. B. Graham, J. D. Shoemaker, D. B. Shumaker, Carey DePew, H. E. Rogers, W. O. Rogers, Claire Downend, Ollie Pressler, Henry Murray, H. C. Riccius, Maurice Forsyth, Mrs. John Maggert, Martha Dick, Kate Smith, Mrs. Martha Treesh, M. R. Allman.

Because of the difficulty at present of securing a minister, services at the church have been irregular since August of this year. However, Sunday school is held every Sunday morning and it is hoped that regular services will soon be resumed.

ROLLA E. KOOKEN

Rolla E. Kooken an Altona merchant, was one of the first residents of Garrett, coming here with his parents in 1878 when his father, J. H. Kooken, who died in 1927, took employment as a brakeman on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

At first the Kookens lived at the present site of The Clipper office, a little later moving to the upstairs of the building on the corner of Randolph and King streets where Moore's restaurant is now, Dr. J. F. Thomson's office being on the first floor. They moved to Altona in the fall of 1879.

Rolla E. Kooken started to school in the Altona school house. He attended this school in the first eight

grades and then spent two years in Garrett high school, then starting to work on a B. & O. dining car, and then becoming night ticket, freight and express agent at Garrett.

Probably no other man in Garrett has held as many responsible positions as has Mr. Kooken. He worked in the ticket office at the grand Central station in Chicago, then took employment in the offices of the Illinois Steel company, advancing to department clerk, then chief clerk, then mill foreman, and before the mill closed in 1910 for two years he was night superintendent.

He then went to Virginia, where he was in charge of the lumber company and after two years went to northwest Canada, where he was employed as relief agent for the Canadian Pacific railroad and for the Dominion Express Co.

When the United States entered the World war in 1917 Mr. Kooken returned to Altona for the express purpose of enlisting in the army, but he was turned down because of defective teeth and eyesight and an injured foot.

Unable to serve in the army, Mr. Kooken secured a post in the efficiency department of the Pennsylvania railroad as test inspector. A year later he came back to Altona and bought out his father's general store. He later was traveling salesman for Butler Brothers out of Chicago. Them on account of the illness of his wife, whom he married in 1917, they went to Virginia, and later to Florida, where he was employed by the Lake County Manufacturing Co. as superintendent of construction, building schools and public buildings.

He then went into business for himself in Florida, and later in Alabama, also dealing in real estate in both places. Before he returned to Altona in 1924 because of the illness of his mother, from which she died, he was at Sarasota, Fla., engaged as business manager for Paul Gilmore, who made water scenes for motion pictures there. After the death of this mother he became employed in the shipping department of the B & O rolling mills at Cumberland, Md., and in 1925 came back and took over his present business in Altona. During the last ten years, besides operating the general store and Standard gas station in Altona, he has engaged in real estate business in this section of the state and in Louisiana, making almost yearly trips to the south to handle his affairs.

In the recent town election at Altona, Mr. Kooken, running on the democratic ticket, was elected to the board of trustees.

In his real estate activities Mr. Kooken has bought and sold a large number of properties and farms, and in a number of cases has been a great aid to Altona residents in securing the ownership of their homes.

The general store which Mr. Kooken operates was started in 1888 by his father, across the road from the present site in a building built by the elder Mr. Kooken. The business was moved in 1920 to the present location. A general list of items is handled including groceries, meats, dry goods, baked goods, magazines, newspapers, tobaccos and confections. Standard gas and oils are handled at the filling station in front of the store.

Altona Annexation

The big continuing story for several year was the bid to annex Altona. Proposals wer first discussed in 1914, and an ordinance wa prepared including not only Altona, but als several additions to the south, southeast, eas and north. The first vote was negative, bu the council reversed itself in mid 1914, an voted for the annexation. A few families i Altona, not too enthused about the idea threatened to file a remonstrance, but th move was dropped. However, included in th land to be annexed north of town wer several acres owned by Mr. and Mrs. John F Mitchell. The Mitchells were workin farmers and had no desire whatsoever t share the delights of urban living, includin alleys, sidewalks, paved streets, street lamp and a higher tax rate. In addition, th Mitchell land began right after the "jog" in Randolph street, and they did not want the street straightened as it would go through their farmland.

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, along with some other families, filed a remonstrance, and the case was finally heard by Special Judge Bratton of Angola in June, 1915. The Judge's decision was to be final, as there was no appeal to a higher court under the law.

The text of the decision, handed down in September, read as follows: "It is ordered and decreed by the court that the unplatted lands described in the remonstrance filed by John Mitchell et al should not be annexed to the city of Garrett as provided by the ordinance passed by the mayor." At this point, the Mitchells were free from annexation, but legal opinion had it that Altona and the other areas were still included, and the city proceeded on that basis. There were some 59 remonstrators in Altona, but by October, 41 had withdrawn their names, so the town of Altona was officially annexed that month, and all seemed well.

Unfortunately, the honeymoon did not last. By January, a number of Altona resident claimed their names had been withdrawn from the remonstrance because of misrepresentation, and the city had not lived up to its promises. One grievance was that Altona thought it would have its own representative on the council, while the city intended to incorporate it into already existing wards. The matter went back to the courts in March 1916. In July 1916, the matter was finally settled, when Judge Link of DeKalb Circuit Court stopped the annexation proceedings, and Altona remained its own town.

Altona

Altona is now a small "suburb" of Garrett, although it was founded 10 years before Garrett, in 1865. It was named after a town in Germany, the origin of one of the settlers.

A sawmill built in the area, and the construction of the railroad, both helped to draw families to Altona. When the railroad began to look for a suitable division point, it first considered Altona. High land prices, however, forced them to purchase cheaper land east of the town, at the present site of Garrett.

Gradually, railroad business moved away from Altona, and timber for the sawmill became exhauseted. These factors accounted greatly for the decline of the town. But it remained an independent town.

Altona was incorporated as a town in 1906 and was governed as such. In 1915, Garrett tried to annex the small village, but was defeated in the courts.

Today, Altona exists mainly as a residential community and has very close ties to its larger, neighboring city of Garrett.

Evening Star
Sesquicentennial
July 28 1987

THE ALTONA BRIDGE

The old bridge stood for many a year,
A landmark from days of old,
And those whose feet trod upon it,
Held memories more precious than gold.

Their hearts were all heavy, when first they heard,
That the bridge would have to come down,
And try as they might to save it,
'Twas a sad day for their little town.

Their beloved bridge was finally gone,
Leaving emptiness up in the sky,
But folks will always remember with love,
This landmark of days gone by.

Submitted by:
Evelyn Leeson Butler

Altona Town Board vote 3-0 to accept CSX offer

In a unanimous 3-0 vote the Altona Town Board voted to accept the offer made by CSX Railroad in regards to the removal of the Altona Bridge.

Following a heated debate between Altona property owners and Board members Monday evening, the decision was made to accept the CSX offer concerning the once and for all removal of the bridge that has standin nearly a century.

The majority of those in a dance were against takin offer.

Town Board President Jin Owen said official negotia ended June 1. The letter the b members received for the M day night meeting said the would become void as of Jun at 11:50 p.m. if not acted up

With no support from Del County Commissioners and rett city officials, the Altona B felt it was in the best interes the community to accept the fer.

The final offer from railr officials includes removal of bridge, landscaping and ut relocation at the expense of C A portion of the bridge will transport a portion of the br to a desired location at the pense of CSX.

A sum of $150,000 will be pl in a fund with interest pay quarterly for a term of five y with the principal payable to Town of Altona at the end o five years. The alternative to is a lump sum payment of $150,

An additional $50,000 wi paid directly to the town for mediate town needs.

The offer also includes pa Quincy Street and paying fo cost to survey the boundari Altona, with a cost cap of $12,

Also stated in the offer i sistance in making applicati the Indiana Department of Tr portation for funding to w County Road 3 underpass of tracks to accommodate two l and increase the height o underpass to accommodate

funding is approved for the project.

The offer also states that CSX will assist with funding and with the application to the Indiana Department of Transportation and the County to widening and increasing the height of the underpass of County Road 3.

Owen told those in attendance, "If we don't accept this offer we could keep the bridge for maybe one more year. But if traffic increases with Randolph Street closed, we couldn't hand the traffic."

One person from the audience wanted to know was why no one had forced the railroad to keep the bridge in good condition.

Another resident said, "We are better off to take the railroad's money and get something for the bridge."

Owen suggested using some of the money to possibly run water lines to the residents on the north side of the bridge, and placing sidewalks and curbing throughout the town.

After listening to the concerns of those in attendance, Owen made a motion to accept the offer. Kim Swander made the second to the motion and the third board member, Denny Goebel, voted with them in favor of accepting the agreement and its conditions.

According to Owen, the bridge

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Grocery Store in Altona

Josh Baker home on west side of Bridge Street in Altona before the Altona Bridge was built. The incline for bridge starts about where the camera man is standing.

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